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JUNE. 1871.

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## CHICAGO

# Medical Examiner,

N. S. DAVIS, M.D., EDITOR,

F. H. DAVIS, M.D., ASSIST.-EDITOR.

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### CHICAGO:

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1871.

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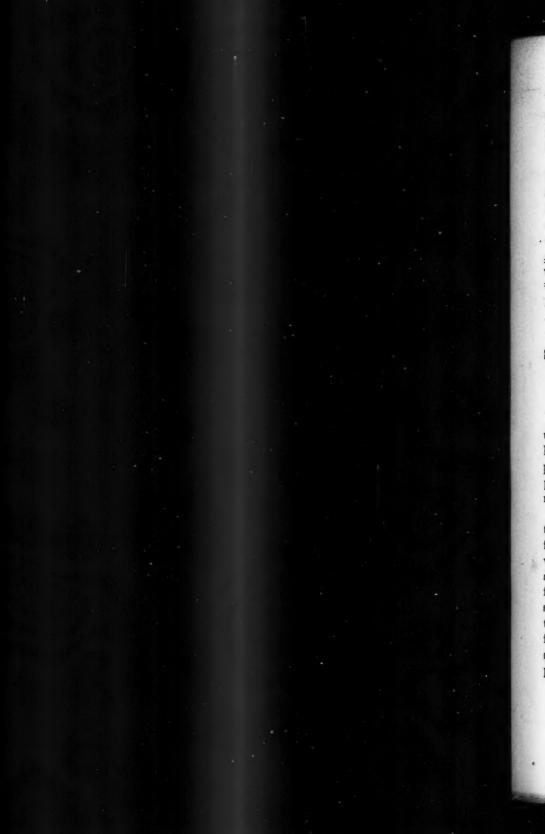
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### CHICAGO

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### Original Contributions.

SPECIFIC ACTION OF TISSUES AND THEIR ELE-MENTS AS CONNECTED WITH THE LIVING BODY.

By DANIEL LICHTY, M.D.

The human organism presents itself as an aggregation of vital unities, every one of which manifests all the characteristics of life; and the separate and distinct peculiarities which these present, have given rise, among the students of physiology and pathology, to systems of research and theories of practice as numerous as there are sects in the Christian religion.

The ancients labored long under the delusion that the functions of the animal economy depended upon some one intrinsic force they variously denominated soul, archeus, or vital principle, which superintended the regular and perfect accomplishment of all the functions of living beings. Hippocrates studied carefully the effects and tendencies of such a force, and followed scrupulously all its indications. Galen led a school who believed that the elementary qualities of the humors presided over the functions of life. A third class, named Methodists, regarded solely the physical properties of the solids, and in particular perosity; attributing to the tissues only the two properties of

contraction and expansion. Empirics there were, too, who wrongfully disclaimed physiological considerations, forgetting that in sciences as difficult and complicated as physiology and patholgy we must admit light from all the other sciences.

Had they been willing to aggregate these orders of forces, and say that the phenomena of the animal economy were produced by them, they would have approached nearer the right, and sooner aided in the perfection of our science. Then for awhile physiological processes were studied under different forms; the iatro-mechanics and iatro-mathematicians, versed in the calculations of the physical forces, assumed to explain the functions of the animal economy by the laws of mechanics; and the iatro-chemists took into consideration exclusively the mixture of chemical elements—the acid humors, gases, salts, and fermentations—each having its physiology, pathology, and therapeutics; and when their labors ceased, they left to science a great mass of theory, and to history the illustrious names of VanHelmont and Sylvius, the latter having attained commendable perfection in some of his aphorisms.

Thus the intricacies of physiology were being slowly unraveled, and the tissues were threatened to be robbed of their mysteries, when about the middle of the seventeenth century, Francis Glisson first recognized the phenomenon of *irritability*; he regarded this as a sufficient cause for all the phenomena of life, and supposed all the tissues possessed this force, though in different degrees, and proposed to divide it into natural, vital, and animal, accordingly as it was manifested by movements more or less apparent, with or without the concurrence of the will.

These ideas made but little impression on the medical world, and it needed the circumspect and ingenious experiments of Albert VonHaller, to elevate this hypothesis to a demonstrated fact. From this time physiology had an existence independent of physics and chemistry, and a specific action was demonstrated in the tissues; his researches, however, did not extend beyond the muscular tissue, and the unfinished work was left to his successors and our preceptors, who have with signal fidelity

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prosecuted it to a degree of perfection, so that the most recent researches still acknowledge a species of excitation or irritation necessary to prove vitality; and it is in fact the only criterion by which we can judge whether a tissue is alive or not; and our notion of death, or necrosis of a part, is based upon nothing more nor less than this; for we cannot exactly determine, by an anatomical examination, conducted either with or without a microscope, whether a nerve be alive or dead: nor can we judge the same of a muscle, since we find its structure perfectly preserved in parts that perished years ago. Czermak examined parts of mummies, and found in them tissues which were in a state of such perfect preservation, that the conclusion might have easily been arrived at, that the parts had been taken from a living body. Virchow found in a fœtus, which in a case of extra-uterine pregnancy, had lain thirty years in the body of its mother, the structure of the muscles as intact as if it had just been born at full time. Thus, however perfectly preserved the form of a part may be, without irritability or activity we have no right to suppose it possesses life. We now also recognize this property in the elements of every living tissue, whether it be muscular fibre, cell wall, continuous membrane, or ciliated epithelium; manifesting according to each tissue the particular processes of function, nutrition, or formation, the individual peculiarities of which, the space limited us will not allow us now to discuss. Hence we will proceed to that other property so nearly allied to this, that of contraction. This function was given to the medical world a little more than a century ago, and is still the subject of investigation.

Bichat demonstrated it to be a property that the *fluids* of the living body possess, and the coagulation of that essential fluid of the body—blood—is said to be due to contraction of a principle residing in it, variously denominated *fibrine* or *plasmine*.

But a short time ago, it was supposed that certain forms of areolar or connective tissue were contractile. Leydig, Kolliker, and Virchow have each examined into this property, and the whole theory of contractility in the human body has been withdrawn within the limits of a substance in the febrils of muscles

—the red granular matter—which by polarized light can be seen to vary in appearance according to its degree of contraction, and which has, no doubt, as these investigations go to show, the property of contractility inherent in it.

These actions must have an exciting cause, and again we see the same tendencies presenting themselves as existed in the researches of the ancients.

Some referred it to the blood, as did one of the then leaders. Frederick Hoffman, who believed and said that "the blood excites the heart, which in its turn gives motion to the blood, thus giving the motor power to the functions of the animal economy;" but it will at once be seen that this is fallacious—for by this mechanism the cause produces an effect from which arises the reproduction of the cause itself, thus making his explanation turn in a vicious circle. Others regarded the nervous system the most important of all the organic apparatus-the one that first feels the impression of excitants, and transmits it to others; in a word, that gives impulsion to all the movements of the organism. But even the wide dissemination and the numerous connections which exist between the individual parts of the nervous system, are by no means calculated to show it to be the centre of all organic actions, besides, nervous action is spoken of very frequently, where it is now known that no nerves exist. It is true, we find in the nervous system definite elements which serve as centres of motion, but we do not find any single ganglion in which alone all movement in the end originates; we recognize a unity only in our own consciousness, for an anatomical or physiological unity, has at least, as yet, nowhere been seen by an anatomist, or demonstrated by a physiologist. These students forget, that as physiologists, they should endeavor to deduce the laws of living or organic forces from the direct observation of vital phenomena, in the same manner as philosophers and chemists deduce the laws of the general or organic forces from the observation of the phenomena in crude matter.

In irritability or excitation we recognize the first and only general action of living organisms. Contraction resides only in a certain element of the tissues, while the former belongs to 1871.7

every tissue. Yet, the numerous forms of activity manifested in and by the individual tissues of a body, lead us to believe, and numerous and able researches teach us, that they are not conducted by any one cause allotted to them from the beginning, but that in every one of them a certain excitation, a specific cause, is necessary for its production.

In studying pathological processes this will be still more apparent when we consider the specific excitants necessary to produce disturbances of a specific character-the specific diseases-so well-known, yet so little understood. Returning to physiology, it is made doubly apparent by considering the neculiarities of nutrition; here the function of the circulation of the blood, and the elements of the bloodvessels, manifest such varied and independent properties in the interchange of substance, that to deny a specific action would expose a lack of discernment and want of attention to these high functions. In the round of the circulation the blood is held by a continuous membrane, which in the capillary system is entirely devoid of porosity; though the experiments conducted recently at the Army Museum, where these membrane were magnified and remagnified by reflection several million times, seem to show pores; yet, if we speak of this as porosity, it can only be admitted in a physical sense as applying to really molecular interstices, which in the large multiplication employed in the above experiments, so dispersed these atoms as to show real interstices. A film of collodion cannot be more homogenous or continuous than this membrane; yet, there is inherent in the elements of its tissues a property that exercises a directly controlling influence upon the permeating powers of the fluids throughout its entire course; not, however, to such an extent as to control all the seeming peculiarities of leaving at one point much, at others little, and some none at all; for this may depend on the one hand upon the amount of pressure the blood is subjected to in certain localities, and on the other hand upon the special properties of the tissues. We cannot, by offering a part more blood, increase its nutrition; hyperiemia may occur and remain-the vessels gorged

with blood for months—as is shown in section of the sympathetic nerve, and yet no appreciable nutritive changes occur. The frequent and continued congested condition of the genital organs induces no hypertrophy, either homologous or hetrologous; yet, for each particular tissue, be it nerve substance, muscular fibre, epithelium, or gland, there is in the blood a specific substance for which these tissues have a specific affinity, and in virtue of which their proper relations to each other and surrounding media is properly maintained. If it were not that these properties existed, and this membrane was of an indifferent character, the properties of Osmose and Dialysis would be restricted and controlled entirely by physical laws.

Gravitation of matter could only be governed by creating with active imagination centres at every convenient point, and at no time would the assurance be with us, that in the disturbance of some of these relations, an inundation might not extinguish the flame of life, or masses here and there accreting we should become half jelly-fish and half—What?

Another tissue possessing special action in a remarkable degree, is that of which the liver is constructed, and which performs its peculiar functions. The anatomical structure of the liver teaches that it is composed largely of vessels surrounding the hepatic cells, from which they are separated only by a thin layer of areolar or connective tissue. We are not allowed to suppose that the secretion of bile depends upon the peculiar distribution of the bloodvessels, for we find a similar network of a venous character too, in the lungs. Yet, the simple distribution of the capillaries of the portal vein about these cells, when in a condition of perfect health, afford us the phenomenon of not only secreting, but actually manufacturing a substancebile—the matters which constitute it do not exist preformed in the blood; it is therefore apparent that the constituents of the bile arise not by a process of secretion, but by one of actual formation in the organ, and by the action of its tissues. Claude Bernard has thrown new and greater interest upon this question in his observations, showing that the property of producing sugar is also inherent in these elements; therefore, when we

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speak of the action of the liver in regard to both these important products, we can mean nothing but the special action of the individual elements of which it is composed. Let fat fill the cells, or they become extinct, or diseased, or their special properties in any way impaired, and neither the bloodvessels or the connective tissue can take up this action; it must unreservedly be attributed to a specific action.

The kidneys, too, have vessels afferent and efferent, with cells and connective tissue largely predominant in their composition; vet, their action is peculiar and essentially as different as their The membrane that separates the terminal branches of the pulmonary artery from the air cavities possesses properties by which oxygen is given to the blood-discs, and carbon dioxide with effete matter to the cavities; these properties may be dependent in part, as investigations now go to show, only upon the epithelium which line these cavities or walls; yet, we are compelled to admit, that even this argues more strongly than anything else could a specific action of these very epithelial cells, or of the basement membrane upon which they are situated, in which case this must possess the special property. If an independent action did not exist, then the functional disturbance or impairment of organs would not necessarily lead to such baneful results; for, vicarious action would be readily instituted, and the peculiar function of each not immediately arrested; but this vicarious substitution cannot be taken up by its own kind, simply, for these are located at many places, but each, by an activity of its own, whereby it is essentially characterized.

These nicely balanced and accurately adjusted conditions of the tissues and surrounding fluids of the living body, are brought about by no processes of a purely chemical character; if this is admitted, then we must admit strictly physical processes, and these we assert cannot exist where tissues possessing vital properties form the reservoirs which hold the fluids. That there are affinities existing between definite tissues and definite substances in virtue of which certain parts are enabled in a greater degree than others to attract certain substances from the neighboring

blood, we will admit, but these very affinities are of such a specific character that they can attract and select from the surrounding media, not only the substances for their growth and repair, but actually transmit from atom to atom, or cell to cell, if you prefer, through matter of varying magnitude in the structures of the body to which vessels do not reach, and which are nourished only by this power of transmission residing in the elements of its tissues. These processes are apparent in the masses of tenden which have only bloodvessels at their peripheries, in the umbilical cord in which no vessels are given off from its veins or arteries into the Whartonian substance from within three or four lines of the umbilicus throughout its entire extent in the semi-lunar cartilages of the knee-joint, which are entirely detached from surrounding tissues, in the substance of the crystaline lens, and in the growth of cartilages in many forms; all these, and many other tissues, contain elements which possess this power in accordance with their several requirements; and, further, after having taken up this material, they are capable of subjecting it to further changes within themselves, in such a manner that they either derive therefrom new matter for their own repair and development, or that after these particles have imbibed this material, even decay may arise in their structure and their dissolution ensue, or an aggregation occur, which multiplying by direct ratio, speedily gives rise to pathological formations, homologous with the tissue in which it exists, or a foreign element finding its way into a tissue heterologous, formations can be rapidly produced by this action possessed by the element introduced; by pursuing this course of study, the early formation of many morbid enlargements will be made apparent.

By a similar independent action the various forms of degeneration pursue silently and surely their course. Fat insinuates itself into the muscles and prostrates the individual from want of action, or takes up its abode in the cellular interstices of connective tissue, and gives that roundness we admire in the figure of a lady, and which we always take as an indication of good living, unless it assumes the forms of obesity, polysarcia,

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or lipomata, when the condition of the individual is to be deplored. Ossific deposits occur distant from bone where no periosteum is known to exist; yet, it has previously been taught, that the presence of periosteum is necessary to the formation of bone. Tissues, then, of the living body, have residing in them elements by which they manifest their vitality, not only when acting conjointly with an organ, or through this with other organs, but a special, a vital action, by which their repair in perfect health is maintained, and by which an affinity is manifested for each other powerful enough for all the processes of life, yet so delicate in character that the quality of atmosphere we inhale, or even totally occult causes are capable of producing a perturbation of these elements, exciting morbid actions in the tissues, and consequent disease, which is only regulated by the amount and power of the disturbing influence, or controlling effect of therapeutic agents judiciously exhibited by a discerning physician. And as this presents therapeutics to our attention, we cannot pass it without a reference to the "specifics" now so frequently recognized by the profession.

Prof. Garretson, of the University Hospital of Edinburgh, said, a short time since, to his class during a clinic on erysipelas, "that the day was not far distant when the profession would recognize specific remedies as they now do specific diseases. And when we introduce these into our studies, specific actions will be sought for in every form of local disease, and the dyscrasie will have lost their terrors to the physician, while the tyro in our studies will sooner see that there is a truth and a certainty in them; and the chaos of darkness into which we are so often plunged, will be lighted by another lamp to guide the procession of our fraternity to the dignified position it has long

sought among the sciences."

# THE LEGAL PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN OFFICIAL EFFORTS FOR THE REGULATION OR SUPPRESSION OF PROSTITUTION.

By GEORGE ANDREWS, Esq., Attorney at Law; late Judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

Society has the right to protect itself, and to provide for the most perfect development of its members in body, intellect, and morals.

It may prohibit and punish every act found or decreed to be hurtful to the public welfare in either of these aspects.

To this end it may prohibit the injurious acts, not only where directed by force or violence against the body politic, or a member thereof, but where the act affects directly only the parties acting and consenting thereto, as in the case of gambling, and various forms of vice.

Society has a direct interest in the physical, mental, and moral perfection of its members, and may, without violating any natural right, so legislate as to advance, as far as possible, that perfection.

If those representing organized society as the law-making power, violate the trust reposed in them-if they legislate in malice or selfishness for private ends-if their legislation is found to be oppressive or injurious to the public welfare, and no other means to remedy the evil appears to the body of the society which they represent, there remains to the organized society, or the oppressed minority, the inalienable and sacred right of revolution. But, notwithstanding this ultimate right of rebellion or revolution, somewhere in every organized political society, exists legislative omnipotence. What legislation is in fact necessary or salutary, the organized society, or individual, or body, to whom the legislative power is by the organization of the particular society committed must determine, and there is no appeal from this decision but to the last refuge of the people against oppression.

In this sense, the Parliament of England, which is not limited

by any written constitution, is often said by law-writers to be omnipotent. It is unnecessary to discuss here the abstract question, which cannot affect the purpose of this article, which has been sometimes suggested, whether the courts would have the right to disregard and disobey a statute passed in flagrant and outrageous violation of right and justice for that reason alone.

Every member of a political community holds his property, liberty, and life subject to the demands of the public welfare; and these demands are made and met in every State in the imposition of taxes, the exercise of the right of eminent domain, the exercise of various police powers, the raising of armies and conduct of war, and the punishment of criminals.

I have been speaking of the powers necessarily inherent in every organized political community. The limitations, which such a community may see fit to impose upon those to whom it may delegate its legislative powers, form another branch of the subject to be mentioned presently.

There is no private relation in which the State has such deep and vital stake as in the family relation. It lies at the very base of the social and political organization, and it is at once the right and the duty of the State to protect it. For this reason, as well as for the reason that the State has an interest in the health and morals of all its members, the vice of prostitution, which strikes directly at all these interests, is a proper object of legislative repression and control. The mode and extent of such repression or control is at the discretion of the legislative power.

But legislative powers in the political communities forming the American Union are limited and controlled by the Federal Constitution, and the Constitutions of the several States. For the purposes of this article it is sufficient to say that Congress possesses only such legislative powers as are expressly or impliedly conferred by the Federal Constitution—that the legislatures of the several States possess all the legislative authority inherent in their respective political communities, except as limited by the terms of the Federal Constitution, or the Constitution of the particular State.

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There is nothing in any of those instruments which forbids the legislature to declare acts of illicit intercourse criminal; and to punish them accordingly, when duly proved to have been committed.

The only point of difficulty is, as to the right of the legislative power to provide for the arrest and detention of persons of either sex upon suspicion merely, and to make physical examination of their persons for the purpose of obtaining evidence of crime, or of adopting sanitary precautions or remedies.

The Constitution of the United States declares that no person shall "be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." This provision is incorporated in similar or equivalent words, in probably all of our State Constitutions, and had its origin in Magna Charta, which, like some of the State Constitutions, uses the expression, "1 y the lawful judgment of his peers, or the law of the land:" per legale judicium parium suorum, vel per legem terræ.

Daniel Webster's explanation of this clause is often quoted: "By the law of the land is most clearly intended the general law, which hears before it condemns; which proceeds upon inquiry, and renders judgment only after trial. The meaning is that every citizen shall hold his life, liberty, property, and immunities under the protection of general rules which govern society. Everything which may pass under the form of an enactment, is not the law of the land."

The Supreme Court of New York says: "It cannot mean less than a prosecution or suit instituted and conducted according to the prescribed forms and solemnities for asserting guilt, or determining the title to property."

Under these and other constitutional provisions, persons suspected of crime may be arrested and detained for the purposes of trial; but they have the constitutional right to a speedy trial; and, in offences of this grade, to immediate and reasonable bail, until a trial shall be had. The power of those executing the law, is only to arrest, prove guilty, and to punish in the ordinary and regular course of judicial proceedings. But the right to arrest and detain exists only as incident to the right to try and punish;

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it goes no further than the necessity that originates it, and certainly would not include the right to compel the suspected party to submit to a physical examination, for the purpose of procuring evidence, or for any other purpose.

Such forcible examination, if not authorized by law, would be a gross assault and battery; and, in the case of a virtuous woman, would be a horrible outrage, a very few repetitions of which would produce and justify a rebellion in any community.

If a woman, or a man (for there is no difference as to the constitutional rights of the two sexes) was duly proven guilty of single or habitual acts of illicit intercourse, a physical examination might undoubtedly be compelled, either as a part of the punishment, or as a condition of release. And the law might undoubtedly provide for the detention and medical treatment of such convicts, until their physical condition should make it safe to turn them loose upon the world again. But this principle would not justify such an assault upon a person not proved to be guilty of any offence. The law takes no cognizance of offences before they are committed, and does not imprison a person to prevent the chance of his committing an offence in the future.

The law might provide that every person who should be guilty of acts of illicit intercourse, or who should make such acts a vocation, should be subjected to compulsory physical examination; but the commission of such acts, or the carrying on of such vocation, would be facts which would have to be proved in "due process of law."

The legislature may, in its discretion, license prostitution as a vocation, or provide for the registration of harlots, and may, of course, require submission to physical examination as a condition for such registration or license. A voluntary registration or acceptance of a license under such a law, would be an admission of the fact of harlotry, and a waiver of all objection to the regulations imposed as conditions.

On this principle, persons coming within the limits of a State from infected districts, may be temporarily imprisoned in quarantine; for by their own act they have consented to the imprisonment. Persons afflicted with the small-pox, or other contagious diseases, may be seized and conveyed to a pest-house for temporary safe keeping and treatment. For the going abroad among the community with such a disorder, of itself constitutes a nuisance which must be abated summarily. But the possession of a treasure of syphilis, and the transportation of it in the community, does not of itself constitute a nuisance. The owner of this wealth of infection may make it a nuisance by distributing it unlawfully, and in that case he or she may be dealt with accordingly. But the mere possession of it, without anything more, is not a nuisance or a crime; and the intent to distribute it cannot be inferred as matter of law from the mere fact of possession.

There is, therefore, no constitutional objection to statutes providing for the punishment of fornication and harlotry upon due and legal conviction; nor probably to provisions for the medical examination and treatment, for that occasion, of the persons so convicted; nor to laws for the licensing and registration of harlots, and the medical examination and treatment of those so licensed or registered.

Probably a rigid enforcement of the law upon the loose women of the city might drive many of the worse and most notorious cases into registration, but want of evidence, negligence of officers, political influence and corruption, and official connivance, would, I have no doubt, leave the majority of them unaffected.

Such as might register could undoubtedly be regulated, controlled, and treated medicinally as might be thought best; but, except as above indicated, I do not think that the right to arrest and make physical examination, or enforce medical treatment, exists. It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the question as to the best manner of dealing with this most insoluble problem—others of better opportunities, and who have bestowed more attention upon the subject, can do this better than I; but my opinion is, that the license system, as applied to our large cities, and to be enforced by our municipal authorities and political police, will be found to be not only a humbug, but a nuisance.

I have spoken mainly of the constitutional rights of the parties engaged in the business of harlotry. One word as to the rights of the citizen and property holder. A bawdy-house is a nuisance at common law, as well as in fact. It is a nuisance which affects the comfort and well being of the neighborhood in which it is located, and the value of all the neighborhood in wh

### CARBOLIC ACID IN VASCULAR KERATITIS.

By C. HIXON, M.D., formerly Professor of Ophthalmology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kansas City, Mo.

In medicine, theories are of little value compared with well-attested facts. No one can, from a process of reasoning, say that any given agent will do so and so; consequently the remedial value of any given agent, simple or compound, must be discovered, if discovered at all, by the test of actual experimentation. These, among other considerations, led me to use carbolic acid in the treatment of the following case. I know of no case on record where this agent has been used in the treatment of this disease, and it is as much to induce others to give it a trial as anything else that prompts me to report the case:—

Mrs. G., aged 23, of delicate frame and rheumatic diathesis, came to consult me on the 1st of February last. She lives about twenty miles from this city, and has been under the care of a general practitioner who pays but little attention to the eye, and under whose treatment she was severely ptyalised. This mercurial action, together with a lactation of fifteen months' duration, had rendered her extremely exsanguinous and emaciated.

On examination I found the following: Moderate thickening of the palpebral conjunctiva, the ocular conjunctiva much more extensively involved—extreme vascular keratitis (the iris entirely hidden)—a large ulcer on the lower and outer half of the cornea, extending deep into the corneal luminæ—great photophobia, it being impossible for the patient to open the eye herself—profuse lachrymation, with periods of great suffering from circumorbital neuralgia. The enlarged episcleral vessels and circumcorneal zone indicated iritis, with perhaps inflammation of other intraocular tissues, but the dense corneal opacity rendered an accurate diagnosis upon this point impossible, and could only be arrived at by rational symptoms.

Owing to her prostrated condition little else was attempted for four weeks than to repair the general health by tonics and good living, and at once removing the child from the breast. At the expiration of this time her general condition had materially improved, but no perceptible improvement in the eye except as to the pain, which, she stated, seemed not so severe. I now applied to the corneal ulcer a couple of drops of the solution of carbolic acid in glycerine, of the strength of sixty grains to the ounce of glycerine. This I had frequently used before in ulcers of the cornea that were indolent and very painful, and with the very best effect. I believe this practice originated with Dr. Williams, of Cincinnati. The immediate effect of the application was excruciating pain for a moment, and a complete whitening of the whole cavity of the ulcer from the coagulation of albumen. The day following I did the same, and continued to do so for three weeks, by which time the ulcer . had entirely healed, when the acid was more sparingly applied. The pain on its application became less and less as the ulcer disappeared and the cornea cleared up. So soon as the cornea became sufficiently transparent lateral illumination revealed partial occlusion of the pupil, and mydriatics discovered synechia posterior, which in time yielded to atropia, except at one point, which has so far resisted all efforts. The vascularity of the cornea has entirely disappeared, but, of course, a leucoma remains in the site of the ulcer.

The general treatment consisted of iron, nitric acid, and quinia, and to meet the rheumatic element in the case the following was used:

B <sub>r</sub> .	Vin. Colch. sem.  Ext. Phytolac, fl.	aā fāijss.
	Tr. Stramonium Tr. Aconit, fol.	131.

Sig. A teaspoonful three times a day. Under this treatment she made a rapid recovery. I report this case, believing it to be the first case where carbolic acid has been used in the treatment of vascular keratitis. If others have used it I am not aware of it, and should be happy to hear. I certainly shall continue to test its powers in similar cases.

### Clinical Reports.

## CLINICAL CASES IN MEDICAL WARDS OF MERCY HOSPITAL.

Clinic by PROF. DAVIS. From Notes by S.

MERCY HOSPITAL, November 11, 1870.

CASE I.—RHEUMATISM.—This man was taken sick last Monday. On admission, three days ago, he presented the following symptoms: Skin dry and husky; pulse 120; lips dry; face flushed and red; tongue very red, raw, and granular; much oppression of breathing without any evidence of cardiac or pulmonary trouble; wrists and hands swollen and painful, and some epigastric distress indicating an irritable condition of the alimentary canal, which I feared would lead to a regular typhoid condition.

With such an irritable condition of the mucous membrane, a strongly alkaline course of treatment would be very likely toinduce vomiting and purging. Colchicum would also be found to operate very violently, producing bloody evacuations, etc. Wishing to restore the action of the skin and kidneys, and yet keep the bowels quiet, and also to lessen the fever and eliminate the morbid material which was causing the local disturbance, we ordered a powder consisting of pulv. Doveri, 6 grs., potass. nitras, 6 grs., and hydrarg. chlor. mite, 1 gr., to be given every four hours.

The Dover's powder we supposed to be sufficiently soothing to prevent the calomel from producing too much effect upon the alimentary canal.

To reduce the frequency of the pulse the following mixture was directed:

R.	Veratrum Viride3j.
,	Camp. Tinc. Opii
	Spts. Nitre, Dulc

A teaspoonful to be given alternately with the powders.

He has now been on this treatment for 24 hours.

The flush has disappeared from the face and the surface is bathed with perspiration; pulse reduced in frequency to about 90, and is more natural; tongue is still red, but no undue action of the bowels, which have moved but once to-day; has also passed water once in the same time; his pains have abated, and the swelling is decidedly diminished. We would continue the same course of treatment unless it should produce too much of a sedative or nauseating effect, in which case the veratrum should be discontinued. The powders should be modified by the removal of the mild chloride to avoid any unnecessary influence of the mercurial, and if he has no evacuation for 24 hours should have a mild laxative; perhaps the best thing would be a tablespoonful of castor oil.

Nov. 18th.—The patient now seems to be entirely free from fever; skin cool; swelling entirely gone from joints; tongue much more natural. Would discontinue the fever mixture, and give the powders three times a day only. The patient will probably be up and about in a few days.

January 31, 1871.

CASE II.—Acute Dysentery.—This patient came into the hospital last Friday; was taken with acute dysentery the previous Wednesday. The attack commenced with slight

chills and some general pains, more especially in the abdomen, where they were griping sharp and severe, with frequent desire to evacuate the bowels, and tenismus. Passages slimy and mixed with blood.

There was moderate fever, coated tongue, pulse slightly acclerated, and the temperature of the skin a little elevated. There are many remedies which have been used to arrest acute dysentery. Some physicians are in the habit of putting a patient in the first stage upon laxative salines till they obtain a free fecal evacuation, and continuing them for several days after.

I have never succeeded with the evacuant treatment, and so far as my observation goes, in most of the cases where it has appeared successful they have always been where enough of the salines had been given to evacuate the bowels, invariably combined them with opium, without which they would not have succeeded.

Another method is by the use of ipecac in large doses, given at once, and the earlier the better; 20 grs., for instance, at intervals of one to six hours, and this is claimed to be infallible. If the first dose vomits the second will generally be tolerated, it is said, and two to four doses are claimed to be sufficient to subdue the disease. I have faithfully and thoroughly tried it in but few instances. In about half of the cases it vomited effectually, no matter how many times I gave it. In some it produced the happiest effects; in others, where it could not be retained in the stomach, I have administered it successfully per enema of starch associated with laudanum.

This patient, before I saw him, had taken one dose of opium. Since then has been taking turpentine and laudanum emulsions, viz.:

R.	Ol. Terebinth 3iij.
,	Tinct. Opium
	Acacia
	Sacch. Alb

M. One teaspoonful every four hours.

And a solution of carbolic acid, as follows:

R.	Carbolic Acid, Cryst
	Tinct. Opii. Camp
	Glycerine
	Water

M. One teaspoonful every four hours alternately with the emulsion.

Improvement has been steady, and he is now almost entirely cured; has but one passage in 24 hours, and this nearly natural.

The method of treatment which I have usually followed after the first stage was past is to give, if the patient has not had free evacuations at the beginning of the attack, 4 or 5 grs. of calomel, either with or without 2 or 3 grs. of ipecac, followed in five or six hours by a laxative of castor oil, sulphate of magnesia, or Rochelle salts. As it is safe to assume in such cases that there is more or less fecal matter retained in the alimentary canal. Then putting them upon some combination that is sufficiently anodyne to overcome the pain, and to reduce the frequency of the discharges. Benzoin has some property that diminishes inflammatory action of the mucous membrane, especially after the first stage. It is not astringent or tonic, but it possesses an alterative influence that is valuable in the peculiar condition of the vessels that belongs to these cases after the acute stage.

This patient needs no additional treatment except to lessen the amount of medicine, and as the emulsion begins to nauseate and the passages occur but once in 24 hours, we may safely and profitably omit it.

January 23, 1871.

CASE III.—SCIRRHUS AT THE PYLORIC ORIFICE OF THE STOMACH.—In this case we find a tumor of a hard unyielding feel, the most prominent point of which is at the umbillicus, and extending some distance above and below.

There is complete development of the cancerous cachexia, great emaciation, sallow hue of the skin, and some degree of cedema in the lower extremities, the result of an impoverishment of the blood.

The patient has been troubled with indigestion for several years, and within the last month has commenced to be annoyed with vomiting whenever food accumulates in the stomach. The food is then ejected with a little bile and thick ropy mucus. If she abstains from food and drink vomiting will not occur. The same result might be obtained by limiting the diet to sweet milk and lime water, in equal parts, taken every half or three-quarters of an hour. This amount would probably be absorbed without creating distress, but if a large quantity is taken it will produce increased muscular action in the walls of the stomach. The ingesta brought in contact with the pyloric orifice excites reflex action, and the food is expelled.

The most effectual method for securing relief in these cases is the restriction of the patient to a diet composed of bland simple substances capable of being absorbed by the coats of the stomach, and these should be given in small quantities so that what is taken at one time may be absorbed without leaving any accumulation to be carried through the pylorous.

In cases as far advanced as this, when the pyloric orifice has become sufficiently narrowed to embarrass the passage of food, the patients will frequently importune for something to move the bowels, but physic will only increase the distress. The bowels do not move, simply because there is nothing in them to excite peristaltic action, and the less they are interfered with the better.

When we find a case of this kind at any stage there is no reason in the experience of the past to suppose that the case will yield to treatment.

Iodine, carbolic acid, etc., have all been used without marked marked success in any instance.

The principal thing to be done is to regulate the diet, as before indicated, and put them upon such treatment as will soothe the pain and assist nutrition.

I have found more amelioration from the use of a solution of carbolic acid, rendered anodyne by paragoric, than from any other combination. The formula directed in this case was as follows:

R.	Carbolic Acid Crystals6grs.
,	Glycerine
	Tinct. Opii. Camp
	Water 3ij.

M. Dose, one teaspoonful every three or four hours. This associated with the use of lime water and thin porridge occasionally in small quantities.

Have sometimes used a pill of conium and arsenite of sodium, but most generally if the stomach is the seat of the disease it has appeared to add to the distress, although in cancer of other organs, as the breast, uterus, etc., the combination has seemed to afford more relief than any other internal treatment.

### Correspondence.

WATERTOWN, WIS., April 11, 1871.

DEAR EXAMINER.—It has been my intention for some time to send my experience in the use of the "Bromides in Summer Complaints of Children," It was my habit to give the brom. potass in from ½ to 2 gr. doses every one, two, or three hours, according to age and symptoms. At first, however, when called to a very severe case my courage would fail me, though I had found no occasion for it, and I would resort to the usual treatment. After reading Dr. Caro's report on the use of the "Brom. Potass. in Summer Complaints of Children," in the August number of the Examiner, for 1869, I had more confidence in the treatment. This report agreed so nearly with my own views of the physiological action of the bromides that I had but little hesitation in accepting his conclusions. After a faithful trial, during two seasons in which there has been a great prevalence of diarrhœa and dysentery, I am almost as confident of the value of the treatment as is Dr. Caro. Though I could not report as many cases I could report some as remarkable. I have that confidence in the treatment that I do not despair so long as life remains. I have been called to cases where it seemed useless to do anything, but would leave medicine and orders to

let me know if child were living next day. Would always have occasion to repeat my visit, and find decided improvement. Have had but two or three deaths since I have relied on this course of treatment, and they were scrofulous children. I am aware that remedies which have in the practice of some been very popular have wholly failed with others. At present I have but few remedies in which I place so much confidence as in this form of treatment. At first I used the bromide alone in simple solution, gr. xx. to grs. xxx. to the 3i. I am now in the habit of using syrp. rhubarb, vil., as menstruum. R. Syrp. rhubarb, vil. 3ij., potass. brom. 9ij., M., s. gtt. x. to xx., every one, two, or three hours. If there is much pain or restlessness I add to above from \( \frac{1}{2} \) to 1 gr. mor. sulph. After further trial I may lose some of my present confidence. I would like to hear from others on this subject, for it is only by comparing views we can ever reach anything of certainty in therapeutics.

The necessary precautions for nursing should always be strictly urged. Bathing, pure air, prudent clothing, and a rigid attention to the diet, which should be fresh milk in small quantities, are all important. These without medicine would answer a better purpose than medicine with inattention to these particulars. Many more of these little sufferers would be spared if we should take more pains in giving directions for nursing. So many nurses are to be found who think that if they give the medicine to the minute, as the doctor ordered, they are doing their whole duty.

F. G. WILLIAMS, M.D.

### Proceedings of Societies.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL EDITORS.
THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

At ten o'clock, May 1st, 1871, the Medical Journal Association met at the rooms of the San Francisco Medical Society, on Sutter Street. Dr. H. R. Storer, of Boston, President of the Association, called the meeting to order, and stated that from

the arrangements being made, the Delegates of the Medical Association from the East would have a pleasant time.

In the absence of the Secretary, Dr. Henry Gibbons, Jr.,

was elected Secretary pro tem.

The proceedings of the last annual meeting not being at hand, Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, read the plan of organization of the Society, the object of which is to cultivate fraternal relations among members of the medical profession, to urge a higher standard of preliminary education of persons proposing to enter the profession, and to collate vital statistics.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Dr. N. S. Davis, from the Committee on Revision of Laws, presented the following amendment to the constitution relating

to officers, which, on motion, was adopted :-

"The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant-Secretary, and Treasurer. All except the Assistant-Secretary to be elected annually by ballot, and shall commence their term of service at the opening of the next annual meeting after their election. The Assistant-Secretary shall be appointed annually by the President, and shall be resident at the place of the next succeeding meeting.

"It shall be the duty of the Secretary to procure a suitable book, and keep in it a permanent record of the organization, list of members, and proceedings of the Association, and, in case of his inability to attend any particular meeting, he shall, prior to such meeting, transmit the book of records to the Assistant-

Secretary.

"It shall be the duty of the Assistant-Secretary to procure suitable accommodations for the annual meetings of the Association, and to assist the Secretary in the performance of his duties."

### JOURNALS REPRESENTED.

The following journals were represented at the meeting:

\*Journal of the Gynecological Society of Boston, Dr. H. R.

Storer; Chicago Medical Examiner, Dr. Davis; American Practitioner, Dr. Yandell; National Medical Journal, Dr.

Toner; Pacific Medical Journal, Dr. Henry Gibbons.

On motion, the Committee on Registration was discontinued,

as they had presented no report in three years.

On motion, the Committee on Foreign Exchanges, consisting of Drs. Dawson, of New York; Parvin, of Louisville; and Mitchell, of New Orleans, was continued; and Dr. Jones, of New Orleans, was added to the Committee.

The President stated that he had communicated with Pro-

fessor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute, who had promised to aid in keeping up the International exchanges. The Chair also stated that last year the Society only numbered 12 or 13 journals, but at present numbered about 40 members.

### RESOLUTIONS.

Dr. Davis offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the social, educational, and scientific interests of the profession would be greatly promoted by a more complete organization in every State and district in our country, such organization being calculated not only to direct and diffuse knowledge, but also to afford the most efficient means for procuring concerted and efficient action on all important questions of medical education and progress.

Resolved, That deficiency in the general education of young men entering upon the study of medicine in this country is an event of great magnitude, not only constituting a barrier to individual progress in professional life, but greatly lessening the general reputation and usefulness of the profession.

Resolved, That the members of this Association be requested to use their respective medical periodicals as agencies for calling the special attention of the profession to the topics mentioned in the foregoing resolutions, until such a professional sentiment is created that no regular practitioner will feel at liberty to receive a student into his office who does not present testimonials from some competent source that he has at least a competent knowledge of the ordinary branches of education, including the lower mathematics and the natural sciences; and the social organizations are so far complete that the several State Societies become the real and authoritative representatives of the profession in each State.

On motion, they were laid over until the evening session.

### INVITATIONS.

The Chairman read an invitation he had received from Dr. Thomas M. Logan, inviting the Association to attend the meeting of the California State Medical Society.

Dr. Yandell moved that the invitation be accepted, and to reciprocate by inviting the California State Medical Society to attend the meeting of the Association, and address by Dr. Storer in the evening.

The meeting then adjourned till eight o'clock P.M.

### EVENING SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Association met at eight o'clock in the evening, in the hall of the Young Men's Christian

Association, quite a large number of ladies and gentlemen being

Dr. Storer, the President, called the meeting to order, and delivered the annual address. The address was listened to with marked attention, and the speaker applauded at its close.

The Association then proceeded to business. Dr. Dawson, of the American Journal of Obstetrics of New York, was reported present.

### ADOPTED.

The resolutions introduced at the morning session by Dr. Davis were taken from the table and read.

Dr. Yandell moved that the resolutions be adopted and published in all the medical journals. Carried.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

On motion of Dr. Davis, the Association proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result: President, Dr. B. F. Dawson, of New York; Vice-President, Dr. H. Gibbons, Jr., of San Francisco; Secretary, Dr. F. H. Davis, of Chicago.

### THANKS.

On motion of Dr. Yandell, the thanks of the Association were tendered to Dr. Toner in recognition of his labors in the preparation of an index of all the physicians of the country, and the contents of all medical journals since their publication, with a request that he continue the work, and report at the next annual meeting.

The Association then adjourned until May next.

## THE MUTUAL RELATIONS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, ITS PRESS, AND THE COMMUNITY.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL EDITORS, ON MAY 1st, 1871, AT SAN FRANCISCO.

By HORATIO ROBINSON STORER, M.D., President of the Association.

Gentlemen of the Association of American Medical Editors: Coming together from the opposite portions of the Continent, we have met to-night, not merely "to cultivate professional courtesies, and to facilitate the conduct and general management of our journals," but, still further to quote the language of our constitution, "to promote their usefulness, and make

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them a still greater power for professional and popular good, and thereby, most especially, "to advance the interests of Medicine." Such being the purpose and intent of our organization, there can be no topic more appropriate for me to present to you; none more fitting to the time, the place, and all the circumstances of the occasion, than

THE MUTUAL RELATIONS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, ITS PRESS, AND THE COMMUNITY.

These relations are manifold. To consider them all would be impossible in the brief space of an half hour's address. I shall, therefore, endeavor to speak only of the most important of them, and, avoiding all attempt at fine writing, to make my remarks terse, very plain, and thereby, I trust, effective.

The Medical Profession in this country consists of what? To this question a multiplicity of answers present themselves, all of them true to a certain extent, and yet all of them, save one, very degrading to the term's highest idea. Were every physician what he should be—a thoroughly honest, straightforward man, anxious only for his patients' welfare, laboring for the development of his science, and not alone for gain, liberalized by education, humanized in the highest sense by a constant entering into the sufferings he is compelled to meet, and, above and beyond all else, spiritualized by the recognition that his every success is but a vouchsafement of God's great mercy, and he but its humble instrument—what a different art were medicine, what a different place in the world.

Of the seventy thousand or more persons in the United States licensed under the Revenue laws to practice medicine, how large a proportion, is it supposed, can be claimed to possess the qualifications just adverted to? Even if we eliminate all who, in default of professional graduation, have no valid title to the name, and all professional empirics, of whatever stripe or hue—Caucasian, aboriginal, or Chinese; tackers, whether of "path" or "ist" to their names—there still remains a mighty host, swelled again to its original dimensions, if the title is permitted, as in many sections of the country, to dispensing druggists, and still again to that doubtful sex wearing the habiliments of womanhood, but assuming the work and the prerogatives, while it seeks to escape the legal responsibilities, of man.

As a graduate in law as well as in medicine, from the twin schools of that dear old University whose foundation goeth back to the time when jurisprudence and the art of healing, those best transplantations of civilization, first were landed on the Atlantic coast, I yet yield for them the palm to that nobler vocation, by whose teachings and ministrations, though God's grace, our yokes here are lightened, and hereafter our best hopes ensured. "Christo et Ecclesiæ." To these did John Harvard dedicate his worthy gift, whose ever-recurring power manifests itself in the skill, the intelligence, and the professional reputation of so large a proportion of American medical practitioners. Do I say that the lawyer and the physician should yield precedence to the priest? Can any one of us who has personally looked within the veil, losing wife or child, or himself sick nigh unto death, do otherwise?

By such recognition of the true sacerdotal function, confessing our dependence upon that One Supreme, to whose immediate presence with us we owe every so-called cure, we but increase, with our own happiness and self-respect, our esteem by others; for what sceptic even is there who would not sooner trust his life to a devout physician than to an unbeliever? Or what man or woman who can afford in their direst strait to spurn the gentle, loving touch of the All-healing hand? \* \*

The physician is to render to his patient of the tenderness and sympathy, care and assistance he has himself received. Let every man see to it that the Fountain is not forgotten, nor impute thereto his own defilement of the precious stream.

That the education of physicians is frequently so limited goes far, there can be no doubt, to prevent that general bestowal of confidence which otherwise would be conferred. For this, however, the community partly, as in part ourselves, are to blame. If a second-rate article is all that is sought by the purchaser, he should not complain if it be received. If the medical colleges are content to underbid each other, and year after year to pursue the suicidal warfare, they should not grieve that their students, become practitioners, so often are starvellings, and so frequently do them discredit.

Professional "intuition" in the treatment of disease is seldom to be found. It is a very different thing from the vocation of which I have already spoken—without a sense of which none should ever assume so sacred a trust. A knowledge of human nature is useful to us, as a matter of course. It no more, however, constitutes a complete preparation for practice than would a knowledge of mechanics, or of inorganic analysis. It is as with houses built upon a rock and upon the sand—unless early education be well laid and solid, a broad and good foundation, the most elaborate after-structure will prove easily shaken

and unsafe. It matters not what, or how many, the apparent exceptions to this rule, for these brilliant self-made men would have shone with far more lustre had they but received the early training of whose lack none are more painfully conscious than themselves. However great is the credit their due, there's always a blur to the gem, and sometimes the very contrast with what might have been, makes this seem the greater. President Eliot, of Harvard University, told but the truth in that now famous paper of his, upon "The New Education." "The term, 'learned profession,'" he said, "is getting to have a sarcastic flavor. Only a very small proportion of lawyers, doctors, and ministers, the country over, are Bachelors of Arts. The degrees of LL.B. and M.D. stand, on the average, for decidedly less culture than the degree of A.B., and it is found quite possible to prepare young men of scanty education to be successful pulpit exhorters in a year or eighteen months. A really learned minister is almost as rare as a logical sermon." And as for the yearly graduates from our medical schools, "Poor humanity," continues President Eliot, "shudders at the spectacle of so large a crop of such doctors." Who of you will not admit that a really learned physician, in the highest sense, is as rare as, by differentiation, the only possible method, a perfectly correct abdominal diagnosis, -which, I am sometimes inclined to say, has never yet been made.

Such being the truth, what of ourselves—to a certain extent representative members of the profession—and of the power which we wield, the press? As individuals we may be very far from the standard our responsibilities demand—many of us undoubtedly are—but, in the aggregate, there's a mightiness in this editorial function, that makes of one's chair well-nigh the throne of Jove. Woe to the evil-doers upon whom its bolts chance to descend!

The opportunities and the influence of the Medical Press, its history in this country, and the causes which, thus far, have interfered with its full measure of usefulness, were all so intelligently discussed by my predecessor, Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, that I will not weary you by their recapitulation.

A few words, however, may be necessary, in this connection, to render more evident the bearing of what will follow.

As there are many classes of so-called physicians, with but one real and honest distinctive type—so this expression "Medical Press" may mislead, unless now more strictly defined. Many of you are authors of no mean repute; you have published, out of the stores of your own experience, manuals or text-books in

the several departments of medicine, or have laid your contributions, in the form of original memoirs or mongraphs, upon the lap of our science. Others, of whom the number was formerly far greater, have descended to a lower plane, and as translators or copyists, have revamped the work of foreigners into our English tongue—doing it too often, I grieve to say, as veritable pirates, without the slightest concert with the authors themselves—thus bringing the whole editorial profession into grave disrepute.

In our calling, as in all others, there are strong and positive tendencies,—on the one hand, upwards; on the other, towards deterioration. In the union that we now commemorate, just as there is strength for us all, so will it be found that the purer tendencies to which I have alluded will be intensified, the less worthy ones diminish or be destroyed.

License, for instance, you will not tolerate, even while ensuring a truer freedom. Every leaning towards irregularity in practice, or towards its excuse or encouragement, as one man you will rebuke. Praise of self will find itself merged in an utter forgetfulness of self-contemplation, through the very work-

ing for others' good. In this connection I would say one word concerning the relations that we hold to these patrons, our brethren of the profession itself. We have our work to do for them, and we all of us endeavor to do it well. They encourage us by their contributions to our pages, by kind messages in the letters they write to us, and, to an ever-increasing extent, by the money enclosures therein contained. And yet, though personally I have had every reason to be grateful upon each of the scores I have named, I am sure that you will agree with me when I say that the medical profession as yet falls far short of its duty toward There are honorable exceptions, it is true, to the remark that I have made. The magazine under my own direction has a subscriber who wrote that the "Gynæcological Journal" was the thirteenth medical periodical that regularly came to his table; and this was a hard-working, over-driven physician, in a sparsley settled country district, with no leisure for study, it would seem, than that afforded while in the saddle upon his daily beat; and yet I will venture to say that this gentleman, by this means, kept himself better informed, more completely at a level with the prominent men of the day, than thousands of city practitioners, with greater wealth, more leisure, infinitely more pretentions, and far less liberality towards the members of this Association. There is not a physician

in this country, I dare affirm, who would not each year obtain his money back again, at compound interest, were he to subscribe for and read with the most ordinary appreciation, a copy of each of the journals that we represent. One-half of the sum that most men throw away at auction sales, for stale and musty editions of authors now far behind the age, expended in subscriptions for the medical journals of the day, would not only do much for the continued education of our friends in practice, and keep their minds alive to the improvements in methods of study and treatment constantly being made, but it would tend infinitely towards a greater appreciation of and respect for our own native medical writers, who, through the channels of communication you offer them, are becoming recognised, as never before, by the profession of foreign lands.

Let us turn now to the relations of our profession and its

press to the community.

There are many persons who look upon their physician as simply their servant, to be paid his wages, and not always when due, at their beck by day and by night, and to be discharged when the whim takes them, as summarily as their horses' There are practitioners, on the other hand,—would that there were more of them !-who, while they look to the public for means of support, yet believe that the skilled laborer, in such a calling, is in every way worthy of his hire; and so far from considering themselves as favored by those who call them to set a limb or ward off a convulsion, hold that it is they themselves who confer the boon, and that the arduous and often repulsive labors thus undergone for others' sake are not to be balanced by gold. These views conflict, the one with the other. Both are to a certain extent wrong; but I should dishonor my calling did I not hold, as I do most devoutly, irrespective of any esprit de corps, that our own view of the question is by far the more correct one. That it is not universally accepted by the community is not owing so much to a lack of grateful sensibility upon its part, as to a cheapening by physicians of each other, and of themselves. The moment a medical man descends to underbidding or decrying his neighbor, that moment he becomes to the commonest intelligence a mere market man, to be haggled with, brow-beaten, or taken advantage of himself. Were the provisions of the code of ethics of the American Medical Association generally accepted as they are by members of the profession, even though not as yet connected with that national body, but known and appreciated by the community, our present relations would be very materially changed. It

would then be understood, that so far from being merely a system of checks and counter-checks for self-protection, and to preserve the privileges of a guild, the code exists for the safety of the public, to prevent quackery and its reckless tampering with the lives of men; to keep for the sacred art, so far as possible, its character of self-sacrifice; and to ensure, through the physician's own effort, his retaining the intrinsic nature of a gentleman-refined, and so fit to deal with exquisite mental and physical derangement,-honorable, and so to be trusted as the friend in the sorest need. We are not permitted to dispense secret medicines though to do so were a royal road to fortune. neither may we patent a medical invention or discovery, however meritorious in itself it may be. This negation is not for the purpose of defending ourselves from each other, but to protect the community from the chance of our yielding to those ordinary temptations that surround all classes of men, and to ensure to it the full measure of every stream of beneficence of whose source we may perchance obtain the key.

Were these facts but better appreciated, there would be less distrust of physicians, and of their measures for the relief of suffering, and less complaint by them of the ingratitude of their patients.

But, I may be asked, is it possible for us to withstand, to any appreciable extent, the flood of empiricism that is now everywhere threatening to beat down and cover all the old landmarks? Unless we have faith that it is possible, we are unworthy to be here in California at the present moment, surrounded, as we are upon every side, by monuments to success under what seemed insurmountable difficulties; to courage that saw, in this begun, the same already accomplished.

That there exist in all communities, representatives of every form of irregularity in practice, what our Canadian neighbors call medical "sects;" that the present extreme tendency to popularize, upon the part of our more prominent professional writers, may bring dignity and permanence of standing into jeopardy; that the running riot of men's and women's minds in their discussions of questions of social science, whether within or without special associations provided therefor, goes far to confuse anew many a matter already none to plain—these are certainly discouragements. But what of that? Were everything plain sailing, were there no dangers to avert, and no obstacles to overcome, of what possible purpose would be our Association? Of what use indeed, our journals at all?

We object, very properly, to certain definite and distinct

violations of the Ethical Code; to "irregularities" so-called, and every looking thereto; but we yet permit an extremely wide range of action. We would not advise that every man should be his own physician; he, himself, is often the first to recognize that error; precisely as when, his own lawyer, he attempts to manage a case in Court. And yet now much preferable it would be, did technical skill and what is known as common sense, oftener make each other's, acquaintagee! We believe in erudition; and yet, is he not the best general practitioner, who is, after all the best nurse? Was there ever a coroner's inquest where it would not have been for the public interests, had the jury understood a little better the scientific evidence underlying the case? Was there ever a trial for malpractice where justice did not feel the lack of a clearer insight into medical measures or surgical methods, and the still more mysterious processes of nature?

To-morrow we are to meet our subscribers and contributors from all parts of the country. They have given us aid and encouragement; we, in return, can stay their hands in their every effort for the increased influence and honor of the great national medical body. Many and varied will be the measures that are to be, or may be, proposed. There is the fundamental and ever-recurring question of Medical Education. Shall it still remain in the custody of the college teachers, who have found it difficult to be perfectly disinterested in this matterthere are many of them among ourselves, but as editors they have risen to a higher level, and I can therefore speak thus freely-or is it to be settled by the outside profession, which has already wisely decided that it has the power? In the letters which I have received from every one of your number, you have urged me, almost without exception, to declare, as the decided voice of the Editorial Association, that the standard of medical education in this country must be raised.

Will it, again, be an advantage or not for the Association to recommend the formation of a National Medical School, liable as such would always be, through political changes and favoritism, to pass into the hands of the common enemy.

The establishing of a National Medical Journal, which, overshadowing that of our learned brother Cox, of Georgetown College, should, like the organ of the British Medical Association, serve as the especial mouth-piece of the great annual professional conclave.

The formation of a Board of General Scrutineers, whose gauntlet would prove far more fatal than those of the present

Annual Committee of Arrangements and the Committee upon Ethics combined, to many presenting themselves as delegates.

The rounding of a National Board of Censors, with branches in every State, whose examination should stamp, as worthy or not, the standing of every physician already holding a college diploma.

. Whether or no there should be a National System of Quarantine.

The upholding the Code of Ethics, as binding upon societies of medical men as well as upon individuals, and branding with infamy attempts, like that recently made by the Councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, to set it at naught.

These are all of them topics of the highest professional moment. In their settlement you have an interest, now by your votes, and hereafter in the fertile fields for discussion they are to afford your pens. I have no question that your influence, then and now, will be cast as an unit upon the side of the right. We legislate not for ourselves, but for the future.

The Doctor then alluded to a conflict which had arisen in the East as to the controlling power of the American Association, and then proceeded as follows:

There are two points of great interest to us as journalists to which I will here call your attention. Together they comprise a means of reaching the profession collectively, and of placing the labors of our fraternity within its reach, to an extent never before possible. For them both, we are indebted to the unselfish and tireless industry of Dr. J. M. Toner, of Washington, for so many years a prominent member of the American Medical Association. Dr. Toner has prepared, and corrected to the present moment, a list of 50,000 of the physicians now practicing in the United States. This he places at your disposal, for consultation or other use. He is also engaged in preparing a complete index of the contents of all the medical journals hitherto published in the country. The value of this work, when completed, will be incalculable.

The following is the register of the Association. At the time I assumed its Presidency, there were, as I have said, thirteen journals enrolled, of which one, the "St. Louis Medical and Surgical Reporter," has since ceased to exist. There remained, therefore, the following twelve:—

Chicago Medical Examiner; Baltimore Medical Journal; Richmond and Louisville Medical Journal; Nashville Journal of Medicine; Galveston Medical Journal; New Orleans Journal of Medicine; Detroit Review of Medicine and Pharmacy; American Practitioner (Louisville); Cincinnati Lancet and Observer; Oregon Medical and Surgical Journal; American Journal of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children (New York); Journal of the Gynæcological Society of Boston.

In addition to the above there have joined us during the past

year no less than twenty-six journals more; to wit:

New York Medical Journal: New York Medical Gazette: New York Medical Record; Journal of Psychological Medicine (New York); National Medical Journal (Washington, D. C.); American Journal of Insanity; Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal: Medical Times (Philadelphia): Chicago Medical Journal; Indiana Journal of Medicine (Indianapolis); Michigan University Medical Journal (Ann Arbor); St. Louis Medical Archives; St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal; Cincinnati Medical Repertory; Leavenworth Medical Herald; North-Western Medical and Surgical Journal (St. Paul, Minn.): Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal (San Francisco); Boston Journal of Chemistry; Physician and Pharmaceutist (N. Y.); Photographic Review of Medicine and Surgery (Phila.); Georgia Medical Companion (Atlanta, Ga.); Medical and Surgical Repertory (Griffin, Ga.); Kansas City Medical Journal; Clinico Pathological Reporter (Jefferson, Texas); Canada Medical Journal (Montreal); Canada Lancet (Toronto).

Gentlemen, you had my hearty thanks for the honor you conferred, far beyond my every poor merit, when electing me to this most honorable post. I now repeat them, for the courtesy extended to me upon the present occasion. In your behalf, also, I would express the gratitude of the Association to our California brethren for their kind welcome and most liberal

hospitality.

May we return to our homes from this land of enterprise, rapid growth, and largeness of heart, educated, even by so short a sojourn, to a greater breadth of view, a more self-sacrificing zeal, and higher purposes, than a single one of us has ever known before. Our union will then have been cemented strongly enough to resist any and every force of demoralization, whether from without or within; and the profession, recognizing at last the power of our fraternity, will frankly confess, as has so long been done by the community at large, that the Press, well organized and wisely conducted, in reality rules the world.

# AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

## FIRST DAY.

The Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, organized in Philadelphia in 1847, was commenced at Pacific Hall, on May 2, '71. About 200 medical gentlemen were present. The present officers are:—President, Dr. Alfred Stillé, of Pennsylvania; Vice-Presidents, Dr. J. S. Wetherly, of Alabama; Dr. Henry Gibbons, of California; Dr. T. J. Heard, of Texas; Dr. Samuel Willey, of Minnesota; Permanent Secretary, W. B. Atkinson, M.D., Philadelphia; Assistant-Secretary, Dr. Joseph Tucker, of California; Treasurer, Dr. Caspar Wistar, of Pennsylvania; Librarian, Dr. F. A. Ashford, of District of Columbia.

About half-past eleven o'clock, Dr. Arthur B. Stout called the meeting to order, and introduced President Dr. A. Stillé, who was greeted with applause.

The Right Rev. Bishop Kip was next introduced, and offered a prayer to the Throne of Grace.

The Committee of Arrangements were called on for a report of the credentials of members.

Dr. Stout came forward, and in some appropriate remarks greeted the members of the Association from the East. He spoke of the scientific interests and the progress they had made in the last quarter of a century. He next referred to the improvement and rapid strides made in California in all departments of learning, science, and art, and then adverted to the many obstacles thrown in the way of the medical profession, and the attacks made on it by the bar, ministry, poets, and authors. In conclusion, he said it was proposed to give the members an opportunity to see some of the sights of this city and vicinity.

Dr. Stout reported that the registration had not yet been completed, 200 members having thus far been registered.

On motion, the Committee were given until the following day to present their report.

A letter was read from Prof. S. D. Gross, of Philadelphia, ex-President of the Association, regretting his inability to attend the sessions of the Association. It was ordered spread on the minutes.

The Secretary read invitations from the California Pioneers, tendering the freedom of their hall to the members of the Association, and from the Board of Health of the city, inviting the

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'Association to visit the City and County Hospital, Alms House, Industrial School, City Prison, County Jail, and Health Office. The invitations were received and filed.

On motion of Dr. Stout, all members of the California State Medical Society not delegates were invited to sit as members by invitation.

### PRESIDENT STILLE'S OPENING ADDRESS.

The President commenced his address by remarking that exactly a quarter of a century ago a convention assembled in New York City for the purpose of founding this Association.

When these events took place, California had but recently been brought within the boundaries of the United States. This State, which now draws travelers from every quarter of the globe to admire its sublime scenery, its marvelous vegetation, and its fabulous wealth, was known to few beyond its borders, and excited but little interest anywhere. Separated from the populous regions of the East by ranges of lofty mountains, by boundless prairies, and by arid deserts, it seemed destined to perpetual isolation, or to be approached only by a tedious and circuitous ocean yoyage.

But twenty-five years ago! Yet to-day civilization sets by the Golden Gate in a populous and splendid city; industry and wealth teem over the land so lately trodden only by the savage or the indolent Mexican; the devious voyage and the dreary and dangerous journey of the slow caravan are replaced by the swift cars that bring the Atlantic and Pacific shores within a week of one another. The features of this young capital announce her culture of art; her literature proves that she sprang full-grown from the brain of civilization; our meeting here to-day proclaims that her physicians and her medical institutions are in harmony with those of the medical world beyond the mountains.

While this precocious development is, perhaps, less an example of growth from the seed than of transplantation of the natural product, it is, nevertheless, to be observed that the intellectual growth of California is paralleled by the extraordinary productions of its soil, whose flowers, and fruits, and forest trees excel in magnitude and exuberance those of the eastern shore of our continent. And we may fairly anticipate that the climate of this western land, which already has marked the inhabitants with a healthier hue, and subdued somewhat that adent and restless temperament which distinguishes Eastern Americans, will peculiarly fit them for the investigation and solution of the higher problems of medicine.

There is something so marvellous in our assembling here as almost to make one doubt the evidence of his senses. That one of the largest of the learned Associations of the country should hold its sessions where, a quarter of a century ago, the words science and art had never been pronounced appears miraculous. And yet, if we regard the history of our own profession, the feeling of astonishment will hardly be less, for we shall see that during the same period it has also advanced with scarcely shorter strides upon the pathway of improvement.

The President enlarged upon this subject and then continued: Among the instruments devised for hastening the progress of popular and professional enlightenment, is this Association. It was founded by physicians who were painfully alive to the deficiencies of the schools, especially in comparison with those of Europe. Some who were most ardent in labor for establishing a higher grade of medical education, had resided abroad, and had felt humiliated in comparing their own attainments with those of their foreign contemporaries. Others who had not been subjected to this painful experience were, nevertheless, acquainted with our shortcomings, and were equally in earnest in arousing the medical profession and inducing the medical colleges to enlarge their curriculum, prolong their terms of study, and exact from candidates for the medical degree a larger amount of professional knowledge. There was no doubt of the need of improvement, nor any of the sincerity of those who advocated it. It is very certain, also, that the combined action of 1846, which created this body, only represented the culmination of partial movements towards the same object which had taken place during at least thirty years before. and the profession were as one in conviction and desire. \* \* \*

Why, then, is it that although the profession and schools are agreed in the essential principles involved in the problem of medical education, so little should be practically done to solve it? This question will, perhaps, be best answered by contrasting once more our own country with others in which a systematic and elaborate method is established. The first contrast which strikes us is that everywhere, except in the United States, medical, like all other education, is regulated by law; so that neither the number of schools, nor the duration of pupilage, nor the extent of the curriculum, nor the condition of graduation, can be arranged to suit the intellectual culture of any particular locality, nor the convenience of any particular faculty. Before the late Franco-German war the number of medical schools in France was only three, in Germany and Austria together not

more than a dozen, and in Great Britain and Ireland about the same number. Each one of these geographical divisions contains a population as great as that of the United States, if not greater, and yet we number about five times as many medical colleges as do the largest Empires of Europe. Admitting that our vast territory justifies, in some degree, but only in a small degree this disparity (for distance has almost been annihilated by railroads), it cannot be doubted that we support at least three times, perhaps ten times, as many medical colleges as we require. And while this excess remains, it is in vain to expect that all, or even a majority, of the schools will agree in adopting an improved plan of education. The interests of the greater number of them forbid it imperatively.

It is evident, therefore, that no progress can or will be made in the true direction unless one of two preliminary conditions is secured. Either some one institution must be endowed so as to be rendered independent of its rivals, or a number of the leading schools must agree together to adopt a curriculum in harmony with the present state of medicine, and with the system of instruction pursued in the principal schools of the world. two conditions there seems no prospect whatever that the first can be fulfilled. The execution of the second depends entirely on the goodwill of the colleges that are interested in the decision. No one can act alone; and every effort to induce several of them to enter into a compact which shall be of mutual obligations, and one not to be abrogated without the consent of all the contracting parties, or at least a large majority of them, has hitherto proved unavailing. What motives, if any, will determine the adoption of a different policy may be conjectured, but need not be suggested; yet it is safe to affirm that if the profession at large were to lend their support to those colleges and only those which determine to carry out essentially the recommendations of the conventions of medical teachers held at Cincinnati in 1867, and at Washington in 1870, we should soon enjoy the benefits of a system of education which would place the American medical profession upon a perfect equality with that of the most favored country.

It cannot be denied that the view which has now been presented of the condition and future requirements of medical education, demands a certain sort of abstraction. The seeker after truths must take a position from which his eye can observe, not only the past, nor the present, nor an imaginary future alone; he must embrace them all in a comprehensive view, and discern the law under which phenomena stand, or as

consequences of other phenomena. In this manner he will be liable to recognize them collectively as links of a chain that stretches from the beginning to the end of time, and learn that however little it may flatter his pride as an inventor or discoverer, his highest as well as most useful office is to build upon the foundation of the past, and according to the plan which the wisdom of ages, which is the highest experience, has determined to be the best.

To the judicious mind, there is in this no humiliation, for it is done in obedience to a natural law which pervades and controls all progress, whether social, civil, literary, or scientific. The perfected creature of to-day may have passed through countless ages of progressive development, and, in like manner, the germs of scientific truth have by slow degrees unfolded, casting of errors as useless appendages to the higher organism. How vast the space between the experiment of Galvani and the science which now bears his name! How wide the distance between the juggleries of Mesmer and the science of nerve physiology! How great the gulf between the charlantry of Hahneman and the splendid edifice which is now growing out of a study of the natural history of disease! Nothing exists in vain. Even fraud teaches by warning, and the world has furnished examples of prevalent errors which concealed some germ of truth. Like the wheat buried with an Egyptian mummy, it springs to life when once it is subjected to the influences that are fitted to develop it, and, if the idea involved in this digression be correct, so will the talent, the arder, the industry, the skill, the knowledge of our profession, blossom forth when once it escapes from the darkness and blight of its long vassalage to antiquated forms, and obeys the stimulus of a higher science, and has the consciousness of its elevation and of its renewed power to fulfil the noble and beneficent purposes of its existence.

At the conclusion of the address a vote of thanks was accorded to the President.

#### MORE INVITATIONS.

An invitation was received from the Physicians of the French Hospital to visit that institution.

The members were invited to bring their ladies to the morning sessions of the Association.

An invitation was also received from the California Academy of Sciences to visit their rooms

of Sciences to visit their rooms.

Out of a list of seventeen Special Committees, only the fol-

Out of a list of seventeen Special Committees, only the following made reports, which were referred to the Sections:

On Criminal Abortion. By Dr. D. A. O'Donnell, of Balti-

more. Referred to the Section on Practical Medicine and Obstetrics.

On Climatology and Epidemics of California. By Dr. F. W. Hatch, of Sacramento. Referred to the Section on Climatology and Epidemics.

On the Climate and Diseases of Mississippi. By Dr. J. P.

Moore, of Yaroo City. Same reference.

On the Climate and Diseases of Minnesota. By Dr. Charles

N. Hewitt, of Minneopolis. Same reference.

Several volunteer communications were received, and referred to the Sections on Surgery, and on Practical Medicine and Obstetrics.

One valuable paper, on the Medical Botany of California, was presented by Dr. Gibbons, of Stockton, Cal., and referred to the Section on Materia Medica and Chemistry.

On motion, the Association adjourned until ten o'clock on Wednesday morning.

#### SECOND DAY.

At half-past ten o'clock the Association met at Pacific Hall, Dr. Stillé, President, in the chair. The minutes of the first day's session were read and approved.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

The Committee of Arrangements presented a report of duly accredited delegates and permanent members.

Dr. A. E. Ames moved that the report be received, except that portion referring to the members by invitation.

Dr. Toner raised the point as to Dr. Thomas' relations to

the Medical Society of Philadelphia.

Dr. Gibbons, Sr., suggested that the point raised might give rise to angry discussion, and he moved that the Chair appoint a Committee on Ethics, to whom such matters should be referred.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried by a vote of 87 ayes to 15 noes.

The report of the Committee was on motion then received.

#### CALIFORNIA PHYSICIANS.

Dr. T. M. Logan submitted a list of members of the California State Medical Society not delegates, and moved that they be elected members by invitation.

The Chairman read the section of the law of the Association, which provides that members by invitation can only be elected when they are from districts unrepresented by delegates in the Association.

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Dr. Stout said that notwithstanding the statute, he hoped some indulgence would be extended to the physicians of California.

Dr. Davis, of Chicago, strongly urged that the laws be not violated; they had been carefully prepared to cover that very point. He moved that the members of the California State Medical Society be invited to seats on the floor of the Convention, and mingle with the members of this Association.

Dr. Logan then withdrew his motion, and the one proposed by Dr. Davis was put to vote and carried.

## MEDICAL EDUCATION.

At the request of the Secretary, Dr. Yandell came on the stage to read the report of the Committee on Medical Education, signed by Dr. E. Geddings, of South Carolina.

Dr. Toner objected to the report, on the ground that it was signed only by one member of the Committee.

The Chair decided the point not well taken.

An appeal was taken, and the decision of the Chair was sustained.

Dr. Yandell proceeded to read the report, which is a pamphlet of thirty-nine printed pages, but before he had concluded its reading, Dr. Gibbons moved that the further reading be dispensed with, and referred to the Committee or Publication, which motion, after a lengthy discussion, prevailed.

#### INVITATIONS.

Dr. Gibbons then announced the various invitations tendered to the Association, which have already been published.

#### A MEMBER REBUKED.

Dr. Gibbons, Sr., moved that the vote be reconsidered whereby the Committee on Vaccination was continued for another year, and that its Chairman, Dr. Henry Martin, be removed, for the reason that he had written a communication to a homoeopathic journal in Massachusetts, attaching to it his official signature.

Dr. Storer suggested that the matter be referred to the Committee on Ethics.

Dr. Dawson said that the article was an insult to every member of the Association, and moved that Dr. Martin be expelled as a member of the Association.

Dr. Bibb offered an amendment, that a committee of three be appointed to prefer charges against the gentleman. It was finally resolved to refer the matter to the

### COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,

which was then appointed by the Chair, consisting of Drs. Gibbons, Davis, Smith, Toner, and Parsons.

On motion of Dr. Stout, it was resolved to refer all questions implying accusations to the Committee on Ethics without discussion.

#### PRIZE ESSAYS.

Dr. Logan presented a report from the Committee on Prize Essays, who state that they had received five essays, and that they award the prize to E. R. Taylor, of Sacramento City, for his essay on the "Chemical Constitution of the Bile," bearing the motto, "Divide et impera."

The second prize was awarded to B. M. Howard, of New York (winner of the first prize last year), for his essay on "The direct method of artificial respiration for the treatment of persons apparently dead from suffocation by drowning, or from other causes." Motto, "Festina lanta."

The report was adopted, and the Committee requested to hold all essays at the disposition of the authors.

#### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

Dr. Davis then presented a lengthy report from the Committee on Correspondence with State Medical Societies, and submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That each State and Local Medical Society be requested to provide, as a permanent part of its organization, a Board of Census for determining the educational qualifications of such young men as propose to commence the study of medicine, and that no member of such societies be permitted to receive a student into his office until such student presents a certificate of proper preliminary education from the Census Committee appointed for that purpose, or a degree from some literary college of known good standing.

Resolved, That a more complete organization of the profession in each State is greatly needed for the purpose of affording a more efficient basis, both for educational and scientific purposes.

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed for the purpose of continuing the correspondence with the State Medical Societies, and of asking their earnest attention to the foregoing resolutions, in addition to those submitted for their action in 1869.

Dr. Moore, of St. Louis, offered a resolution that all Medical Colleges charge \$100 as the fee for a course of lectures, and that a forfeiture of this rule shall subject such college to no representation in the Convention. After a protracted discussion, the resolution was voted down, on the ground that quality of education does not depend on price.

A recess of ten minutes was taken, to enable members from the different States to agree on a member to serve on the Committee on Nominations.

The Convention then adjourned.

# THIRD DAY.

The third session of this National Association was held at Pacific Hall. Vice-President Gibbons, in the absence of the President, called the meeting to order.

## THE VISIT TO OAKLAND.

Professor Carr, of Oakland, was introduced, and stated that the invitation to visit Oakland was extended by the Mayor, profession, and citizens of that city. The party would be taken from the Oakland wharf over the bay, where conveyances would be in waiting for them to show them around Oakland, and to partake of a collation of Californian products.

On motion of Dr. E. A. Ames, the invitation was accepted, and the Association decided to meet next day at 9 A.M., and adjourn at 11 A.M., to take the 11.10 boat for Oakland.

An expression being desired as to the number that would attend the trip, a vote was taken, and all present voted in the affirmative, and 25 per cent to be added for the ladies. The party will consist of about 200.

#### ADDITIONAL DELEGATES.

Dr. Stout stated that through inadvertence the following names had been omitted from the roll of delegates: Dr. Ariel B. Hovey, of Ohio; Alexander Fisher, of Chicago; G. George Tyrell, of Sacramento, and Dr. John Fiske, of Amador.

#### REPORTS.

A report was read from the Committee on Publication, giving an account of the labors performed by them last year.

The Treasurer presented his annual report, showing the receipts to have been \$3,802 88; disbursements, \$3,098 56; balance on hand, \$704 32.

The annual report of the Librarian was next read, stating that the books of the Association were being well preserved at the Smithsonian Institute. At the last year's report the Library numbered 329 volumes, to which had been added during the year medical journals. The grand idea of the Association is to establish and form an American Medical Repository, where the whole medical literature of this country and continent might be preserved and owned by the representative Association of the profession of the new world.

The idea has as yet failed to be realized, but many are now

manifesting an interest in it, and an appeal is made to American authors to furnish copies of their works to this Association. The reports were referred to the Committee on Publication.

#### INSANE ASYLUMS.

Dr. Kirwan, of Pennsylvania, presented a report from the Association of Superintendents of Insane Asylums, which was organized in 1844, which was to the effect that the Association could accomplish more good by having a distinct Association, at which all matters relative to the care and treatment of the insane could be fully discussed better than if referred to a section of this Association.

Dr. Storer offered the following resolution, which was adopted: Resolved, That the Association of Superintendents of Institutions for the Treatment of the Insane and the American Medical Association should be more closely united, and that the meetings of the two Associations should be held about the same time and at the same place.

Dr. Y. C. Atlee, delegate from this Association to the Association of Superintendents of Insane Asylums, presented a report of his labors.

#### NATIONAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

Dr. Johnson, of Missouri, presented a report from a Special Committee, suggesting a plan for the elevation of medical attainments and establishment of a National Academy of Medicine. Referred to Committee on Education.

#### NAVAL EDUCATION.

Dr. Yandell presented a report from the Special Committee, to examine Dr. Pinckney's report on the British system of naval medical education. Referred to Committee on Education.

#### SURGERY.

Dr. E. T. Barber, of Yreka, submitted a paper on the fracture of the neck of *fermur*, in a child seven years old. Referred to Committee on Surgery.

#### BOTANY OF CALIFORNIA.

Dr. Yandell, Chairman of the section on *Materia Medica* and Chemistry, reported that the only paper they had received was from Dr. W. P. Gibbons, of Alameda, on the Medical Botany of California, together with 180 specimens of indigenous. They considered it one of the most important ever presented to the Association, and moved its reference to the Committee on Publication. Dr. Gibbons moved to refer it back to the author, to be completed and presented next year. Carried.

#### THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Storer, delegate to the Canadian Medical Association,

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reported that he attended the sessions of that body at Ottawa. and was well received. He stated that most of the members were graduates of British Colleges, and their education was far above the average of the profession in this country. They extended an invitation to the Association to send delegates to its meetings.

The Committee on Ethics presented a report, which was received and accepted. They made no report in the case of Dr. Thomas, representative from a female college in Philadelphia, as the matter would come up under a proposed amendment to the Constitution.

## FEMALE COLLEGES.

Under the head of unfinished business the following amendment to the Constitution, proposed at the last annual session by Dr. Henry Harthshorne, of Pennsylvania, was called up:

"Nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prevent delegates from colleges in which women are taught and graduated in medicine, and hospitals in which medical women, graduates in medicine attend, from being received as members of this Association."

This drew forth an animated discussion pro and con, and a motion to indefinitely postpone the subject matter prevailed, by a vote of 80 ayes to 25 noes.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Pending the discussion on the Woman question, the Committee on Nominations came and presented the following names as officers for the ensuing year: President, D. W. Yandell, of Kentucky; First Vice-President, T. M. Logan, of California; Second Vice-President, C. L. Ives, of Connecticut; Third Vice-President, R. M. Michel, of Alabama; Fourth Vice-President, J. K. Bartlett, of Wisconsin; Permanent Secretary, W. B. Atkinson, of Pennsylvania, who is elected for life; Assistant-Secretary, D. Murray Cheston, of Pennsylvania; Librarian, F. A. Ashford, District of Columbia; Treasurer, Casper Wistar, of Philadelphia.

On motion of Dr. Davis, the report was received, and the

gentlemen named unanimously elected.

The Convention then adjourned to Toland Medical College,

being conveyed thither in cars.

The guests were cordially received at the College by the They were then shown through the institution, which was highly complimented as being one of the most complete and best arranged in the country. A sumptuous collation was spread and partaken of with gusto. Toasts were proposed and responded to, and after spending two hours agreeably, the guests returned to their hotels well pleased.

## FOURTH DAY.

The Association met, pursuant to adjournment, at 9 A.M., President Stillé in the Chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

#### THANKS FROM CALIFORNIA.

The following was read, and ordered spread on the minutes:

OFFICE OF CALIFORNIA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY,
SAN FRANCISCO, May 5th, 1871.

To the Members of the American Medical Association:
GENTLEMEN,—Allow me, in the name of the Medical Men of
the Pacific Coast, to tender our thanks to the Association for
the honor conferred upon us by the assembling of members of
this Association in the city of San Francisco, whereby so many
of our brethren, who for years have been isolated from the
Association of their more favored Eastern brethren, have had
an opportunity of attending the deliberations of this honored

and national body. George Hueston,

Corresponding Sec. of the State Medical Asso.

#### CHAIRS OF HYGIENE TO BE ESTABLISHED.

Dr. T. M. Logan, of Sacramento, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Whereas, The science of Hygiene and its corollary preventive, a State medicine, are subjects eminently congenial with the purposes of this Association, inasmuch as they have for their objects the preservation of human life, and the removal of those causes of disease and death which it is in the power of legislation to ameliorate, if not eradicate; and, whereas, the great fundamental idea that was made the prominent element for medical association, and that led eventually to our national organization, was a higher standard of medical education; and, whereas, the present system adopted by our Colleges provides more and more satisfactorily for the thorough qualification of the graduate, as regards the principles and practice of his art, but does not provide at all adequately for the special study and cultivation of questions of State medicine; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Association recommends a distinct and separate chair of hygiene, independent of physiology, to be established in all our medical schools, and constituted a requi-

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site curriculum preliminary to that diploma which confers one of the highest honors of the profession.

Resolved, That the inauguration of the enlarged philanthropic policy of State medicine in Massachusetts and California is worthy of our special approbation, and commends itself to other States for imitation; and, therefore, the President of this Association is hereby authorized to nominate at this session, a Committee, consisting of one physician from each State in the Union, to memorialize the Legislatures of all the other States to follow the example of one of the oldest, most enlightened, and conservative, as well as one of the youngest, most progressive, and enterprising members of our glorious confederacy, who have led off in the right way, and at the right time, for the prevention of disease and the correction of "those multitudinous agencies, whether physical, whether moral, whether born of earth, of air, or of society, which are either openly or insidiously degenerating the human race."

Resolved, That this Association further recommends that initiative steps be taken, as soon as six States shall engraft State Medicine upon their statute books, for the formation of a "National Health Council," whose objects shall be the prosecution of the comparative study of international hygienic statistics, and the diffusion and utilizing of sanitary knowledge; and that said Counil shall be aided and assisted by this Association in using whatever influence may legitimately lay in their power, with foreign States, as well as with the medical profession, and the people generally, in securing co-operation in the ends and objects of public hygiene.

Resolved, That said National Health Council, although thus organized as a branch per se, shall be auxiliary to this Association, and shall constitute a special section to hygiene, to which all questions, germane to this department of medicine, shall be referred. "Only," to use the language of the great Virchow, "by thus working harmoniously together, by thus mutually enlightening each other, will the State gain an organ to which may be safely intrusted the solution of the great question of our time, viz.: bodily and mental health, and development of future generations.

OFFICERS FOR THE SECTIONS.

Chemistry and *Materia Medica*—Prof. R. E. Rogers, Philadelphia, President; E. Cutter, Mass., Secretary.

Practical Medicine and Obstetrics—D. A. O'Donnel, Baltimore, President; B. F. Dawson, N.Y., Secretary.

Surgery—John T. Hodgen, Missouri, President: W. F. Peck, Davenport, Iowa, Secretary.

Meteorology and Epidemic Diseases—George Sutton, Ind., President; Elisha Harris, N.Y., Secretary.

Medical Jurisprudence—S. C. Busey, Washington, President;

E. L. Howard, Baltimore, Secretary.

Physiology J. C. Dalton, N.Y., President; D. Payton, Oregon, Secretary.

Psychology—Isaac Ray, Philadelphia, President; John W.

Kirwin, Pennsylvania, Secretary.

Library Committee at Washington-Dr. J. M. Toner.

The Committee on Nominations presented a report of Committees for the ensuing year, which, on motion, was adopted:

Committee on Publication—Dr. F. G. Smith, of Pa., Chairman; W. B. Atkinson, Pa.; D. Murray Cheston, Pa.; F. A. Ashford, D.C.; Caspar Wistar, Pa.; H. F. Askew, Delaware; I. Aitken Meigs, Pa.

Committee on Prize Essays—Dr. A. Stillé, Chairman, Phila.; F. G. Smith, Phila.; D. A. O'Donnell, Balt.; B. F. Dawson,

N.Y.; L. P. Bush, Dela.

Committee on Medical Education—J. S. Wetherly, Alabama, Chairman; L. Cooper Lane, S. F.; J. M. Toner, Washington; Samuel Wiley, Minn.; W. O. Baldwin, Alabama.

Mendenhall, Cincinnati; L. P. Garvin, R.I.

Committee on American Medical Necrology—Chairman, John D. Jackson, Ky.; Chas. W. Parsons, R.I.; E. A. Hildreth, West Va.; Wm. Lee, Washington, D.C.; T. M. Logan, Cal.; W. C. Warrender, Oregon; H. D. Holton, Vt.; W. J. Scott, Ohio; W. D. Buck, N.H.; A. Sagar, Michigan; V. Karsey, Ind.; A. E. Ames, Minn.; H. K. Steele, Col.; ——Mason, Wis.; S. D. Gross, Phila.; D. W. Stormont, Kansas; J. B. Johnson, Mo; H. R. Storer, Mass.; H. W. Rushenburger, U.S. Navy; I. W. H. Baker, Iowa; J. O. Hamilton, Ill.; ——Peabody, Neb.; L. P. Bush, Del.; G. W. Russell, Conn.; Paul C. Chew, Md.

Committee of Arrangements—Dr. E. Hartshorne, Chairman; Drs. S. W. Gross, Murray Cheston, J. F. Maury, James Tyson, S. W. Mitchell, John H. Packard, William Pepper, Richard

Townsend.

On the Climatology and Epidemics of—Maine, Dr. Wood, Portland; New Hampshire, A. B. Crosby; Massachusetts, E. Cutter; Rhode Island, Edward T. Caswell; Connecticut, I. C. Jackson; New York, W. F. Thomas; New Jersey, E. M. Hunt;

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Pennsylvania, W. S. Wells; Maryland, C. H. Ohr; Georgia, A. I. Senimes; Missouri, W. S. Edgar; Alabama, R. T. Mitchell; Texas, S. M. Welch; Illinois, D. Prince; Indiana, D. Clark; District of Columbia, J. W. H. Lovejoy; Iowa, I. Williamson; Michigan, Douglas; Ohio, J. A. Murphy; California, F. W. Hatch; Tennessee, B. K. Bowling; W. Virginia, E. A. Hildreth; Minnesota, Charles N. Hewitt; Virginia, Wortham; Delaware, L. P. Bush; Arkansas, Sinks; Mississippi, J. P. Moore; Louisiana, S. M. Bemiss; Wisconsin, J. K. Bartlett Kentucky, L. P. Yandell, Sr.; Oregon, E. R. Fisk; North Carolina, F. J. Haywood; Colorado, R. G. Buckingham; South Carolina, M. Simmons.

Special Committees-Dr. A. L. McArthur, Chicago, Illinois.

On the nature and process of the restoration of Bone.

George Sutton, İndiana. Comparative Pathology and the effects which diseases of inferior animals have upon the human system.

Dr. Antisell, Chairman of the Committee on the cultivation

of the Cinchona Tree.

Vaccination-Chairman, Dr. T. M. Wise, Kentucky.

Anatomy and Disease of the Retina—R. F. Michell, Alabama.

Some Diseases peculiar to Colorado—John Elsner, Denver, Colorado.

Skin Transplantation—J. Ford Thompson, Washington, D.C. SECTIONS.

The Secretary presented the report of the Section on Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, submitting papers on Criminal Abortion, by Dr. D. A. O'Donnell, of Maryland, and on the Social Evil, by Dr. Stout, of San Francisco. Referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. O'Donnell read a series of resolutions condemning in the strongest terms abortionists, and resolving to hold no intercourse with them. The resolutions were adopted.

THE NAVAL CORPS.

Surgeon J. M. Browne, U.S.N., on behalf of the medical corps of the Navy, returned the gratitude of the corps to the Association for the aid extended to them in the contest between the line and staff, which, by a recent Act of Congress, defines their position and rights, with equality of rank and to the dignity of the profession. Though it was not all they had desired, yet still it was a fair compromise, and the situation ought to be accepted by all parties. He then read some resolutions adopted by the representatives of the Navy, expressing

their thanks for the sympathy extended to them in the protracted struggle, and inviting young men to enter the Navy. The resolutions were referred to the Committee on Publication.

ETHICS.

Dr. Montgomery offered a resolution that a Chair of Ethics be established in all Medical Schools of the country. It was subsequently withdrawn.

PHYSICIANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Dr. M'Arthur moved that Dr. Toner be requested to furnish to the Association an abstract of the statistics prepared by him with care and labor. It was a list embracing the names of 60,000 physicians in this country, the number that paid revenue licenses, and 3000 of which were homeopaths. Referred to the Committee on Publication.

MEMORIAL FUND.

Dr. Storer moved that the Association take some action to raise funds towards the Memorial Fund inaugurated by the physicians of Europe in honor of the late Sir James Y. Simpson, of Edinburgh. Adopted.

REPRESENTATIVES OF FEMALE COLLEGES.

Dr. Atlee, of Philadelphia, offered the following resolution: Resolved, That the American Medical Association acknowledges the right of its members to meet in consultation the graduates and Teachers of Women's Medical Colleges, provided the code of ethics of the Association is observed.

An animated discussion ensued on this proposition, but the hour for adjournment to Oakland (11 A.M.) having arrived, the

Convention, on motion, adjourned until evening.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association reassembed at 8 P.M.

In the absence of the Secretary, Dr. J. C. Tucker acted as

Secretary pro tem.

The Chairman stated the first business in order, was the resolution offered by Dr. Atlee prior to the adjournment of the morning session, and then read the resolution.

This was followed by a very hot debate; and the matter

finally disposed of by being indefinitely postponed.

THANKS RETURNED.

Resolutions were offered and adopted returning thanks to the various railroad lines, and to all individuals and associations who had extended courtesies to the members of the Association; also, to the President and Secretary for the faithful discharge of their duties.

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#### MORE INVITATIONS.

Invitations extended by Dr. Shurtliff, Superintendent of the Insane Asylum at Stockton, for the Association to visit that institution; and also from the Mercantile Library Association, extending the freedom of the rooms, etc., to members during their stay in this city.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

Dr. Davis, in a few appropriate remarks, spoke of the pleasant reunion they had during the sessions, the good feeling existing, of the hospitalities they had received, and then moved to adjourn sine die, which was, on being put to vote, carried.

# Book Notices.

Chemistry General, Medical, and Pharmaceutical, including The Chemistry of the U. S. Pharmacopœia. A Manual on the General Principles of the Science, and their Application to Medicine and Pharmacy. By John Attfield, Ph. D., F.C.S. From the second and enlarged English edition. Published by Henry C. Lea, Philadelphia. For sale by Cobb Bro., 81 and 83 Lake St., Chicago.

This is a small work of 500 pages, intended especially to meet the wants of medical and pharmaceutical students and practitioners. It differs from other text-books, first, in the exclusion of matter relating to compounds, which at present are of interest principally to the scientific chemist; secondly, in containing the chemistry of every substance recognized officially, or in general practice, as a remedial agent; and thirdly, in the paragraphs being so cast that the volume may be used as a guide in studying the science experimentally. A comprehensive index, containing five thousand references, renders the work a valuable one for consultation in the course of business or professional practice. The chemical notation of the work is in accordance with modern theories. The metric system of weights and measures is alone used in the sections on quantitative analysis.

Report of the Board of Health of the city of Chicago, for 1867, 1868, and 1869, and a Sanitary History of Chicago, from 1833 to 1870. Chicago: Lakeside Publishing and Printing Company.

We acknowledge the receipt of a handsomely bound copy of this valuable Report.

#### PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Observations on the Physiological and Therapeutical Effects of Galvanization of the Sympathetic. By A. D. Rockwell, A.M., M.D., and Geo. M. Beard, A.M., M.D. New York Printing Co., 81-83 Centre Street.

Uterine Catarrh, frequently the cause of Sterility New Treatment by H. E. Gantillon, M.D. J. Campbell, publisher, 18 Tremont Street, Boston.

#### PREPARING FOR THE PRESS.

Medical and Surgical Memoirs. By Joseph Jones, M.D., Professor of Chemistry, Medical Department, University of Louisiana.

This work will embrace the investigations of fifteen years into the Causes, Geographical Distribution, Natural History and Treatment of Intermittent, Remittent and Congestive Malarial Fevers, Yellow Fever, Typhoid and Typhus Fevers, Small-Pox, Spurious Vaccination, Measles, Pneumonia, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Scurvy, Tetanus, Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis, Diseases supervening upon Gun-Shot Wounds, Pyæmia, Hospital Gangrene, Erysipelas, etc.

The results of the investigation of the Diseases of the Confederate Army, during the American Civil War, 1861-1865, will occupy a prominent portion of the Work.

These investigations have been prosecuted unremittingly during the past 15 years; and the author proposes to lay the results before the Medical Profession, as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers have been obtained.

Physicians and others desiring to become subscribers, will please forward their names to

Joseph Jones, M.D., Glass Box 1542, New Orleans, La.

# Editorial.

# CORRESPONDENCE OF THE SENIOR EDITOR.

On Monday morning, April 24th, 1871, at 10.45, we took seats in one of Mr. Pullman's elegant palace sleeping cars, surrounded by as pleasant a company of gentlemen and ladies as ever traveled together, and started across the Continent for the City of the Golden Gate. During all that day and night we were passing over the rich and familiar prairie country of Northern Illinois and Iowa, through which the Fulton and Omaha branch of the North-Western Railroad passes, and reached Omaha about 9 o'clock A.M. of the second day. There we renewed our accommodations, and were soon again moving majestically onward towards the great mountain chain that divides the waters of the Mississippi from those that flow into the Pacific Ocean. During the remainder of that day and night, and all the following day, our course was onward and upward; but the ascent was so gradual, and the mountain slopes spread out on so grand a scale, that we could hardly realize either the distance or the degree of elevation. During the forepart of the third day we were passing over those almost boundless plains, inhabited by buffaloes, antelopes, wolves, and prairie dogs. Of the antelope and prairie dogs we saw plenty, and imagined that we saw a small herd of buffaloes at a distance. In the afternoon, while rapidly approaching the highest points on the road, we first found the ground partially covered with snow, and were soon after enveloped in a driving snowstorm-not lasting long, however, and making no barrier to our progress. After passing the highest point of the whole route, being little more than 8000 feet (at Shermon), and reaching the plain dividing the waters flowing eastward into the

Platte from those flowing southward through the Green River into the Colorado, night again obscured our vision, caused our seats to be converted into beds, and we gladly exchanged the wonders of Nature and the brilliant conversazione of our party for sweet sleep and the fairy-land of dreams. At early dawn, taking our station on the platform-while most of our companions were still in their berths-we found the train just crossing the dividing ridge between the Green River basin and the head waters of the Bear River, which empties into Salt Lake. This Green River and Bitter Creek plain or basin is the first (as we go westward) of a series of vast and elevated plains, having all the appearance of having been once great inland seas. It is bounded on the east by the Rocky Mountain chain proper, and on the west by the Wasachts, while both north and south the eye constantly rests on mountain peaks, many of which are covered with snow. It is mostly barren, and its waters so bitter and alkaline, that they are not only unfit for man or beast, but they cannot be used to supply the engines running on the road. Yet its geological features are interesting, and it contains a valuable stratum of coal, which is already being worked, to supply the fuel for use along the railroad. Crossing the Bear River, we were quickly engaged in the rugged and snow-capped Wasacht range of mountains, and after many curves, striking the head waters of Webber River, we followed its clear but turbulent waters through one of the grandest mountain gorges to be found on the entire route. It is here that we pass through the celebrated Echo Canyon and Devil's Gap, and enjoy every variety of mountain scenery, from the terrific gorge with its overhanging cliffs; the grand mountain with its towering and barren rocks; to the green and gentle slope decked with flowers. As we emerge from the gap in the Wasacht, near the mouth of Webber River, Salt Lake, with its promontory island and surrounding valley, comes suddenly before us, and we are at Ogden, where a good supper and a change from the Union to the Central Pacific Railroad awaits us. These things attended to, and a temporary good-bye to a part of our company who stopped over

a day to visit the Salt Lake City, and we were again in motion—not on the sudden curves and rapid grades of the mountain, but across the northern border of Salt Lake Valley, with the placid lake on the one side, and the rugged, snow-capped Wasacht on the other.

We soon reached the new and rapidly-growing town of Corrinne, near the mouth of Bear River, where we saw a small steamboat in process of building to run on Salt Lake. Soon after passing this place night spread his curtain over us, and our company of living freight had their seats converted into beds, and we slept soundly while rolling over the rest of this second great basin or valley. At the first dawn of the morning we had passed the ridges which constitute its western boundary, and were passing smoothly over the first part of the Humboldt Valley, better known as the Great Desert. This is an immense elevated plain, with the naked Humboldt Mountains for its circumference; a river of the same name in its centre, clothed with no vegetation but a little stunted sage brush and a few bunches of bunch grass just on the margin of the river, and a few squalid Indians for its inhabitants. And yet here we go at ordinary railroad speed for thirty-six hours, over a surface more level than the prairies of Illinois. At only one point is the monotony relieved by the mountains on either side approximating until there is only space for the river and the railroad track to pass between the lofty and perpendicular columns of rock, properly called the palisades. Yet over all this desert, and, indeed, over all the route, the stations are well supplied, and the regular eating places furnish as good meals as are to be had anywhere between Chicago and New York. The principal streams flowing into this valley are the Humboldt, the Carson, and the Truckee rivers, all of which end in lakes, that, like the Salt Lake, have no visible outlet, the water doubtless disappearing mostly by evaporation. The whole region is strongly alkaline, and the waters of the Humboldt and Carson rivers are so bitter as to render the fish and fowls that inhabit them unfit for food. The Truckee has its origin in the Eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada range of mountains, and coming into the western

border of the great desert, empties into Pyramid Lake. As the morning dawned on us, after we had entered the eastern part of the Humboldt valley, so night overtook us before we reached its western terminus, and the following morning found us ascending the first or eastern range of the Sierra Nevada, through the narrow and tortuous gorge made by the Truckee. In every direction the mountains rise abrupt, rugged, rocky, and sparsely covered with the red wood and pine, while the turbulent water of the Truckee was foaming and dashing along the rocky passage below. A rapid up grade, so tortuous as to turn the engine towards all points of the compass within an hour, soon brought us into the long snow-shed (more than 30 miles in length) that shelters the track at the summit of the There everything was covered with snow from one to two feet deep. After a brief halt we emerged from the snowshed, and for a time were winding among the mountain summits, looking out upon some of the grandest scenery that the imagination can conceive. So rapid was our descending grade that at breakfast, between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, we had not only left the region of snow, but were surrounded with green fields, opening flowers, and singing birds. After breakfast we resumed our course down the mountains on a grade that falls 3000 feet in a distance of less than 100 miles. About noon we arrived at Sacramento, and after following the river of that name a while we left it, and winding our way through the coast range of hills, arrived at Oakland, on the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay, with the city full in view. A good ferryboat soon transferred us across the bay, and we found ourselves comfortably quartered at the Grand Hotel, having travelled without breaking connections or halting, except for supplies, from 10.45 on Monday morning until six o'clock on Saturday evening in completing the trip from Chicago to San Francisco.

The topography, geology, and climatology of the route afford topics of great interest, not to the scientific only, but to the physician and sanitarian. A discussion of these, including the topography and climate of San Francisco and its vicinity, must be deferred until another number of the Examiner. As I send

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you full accounts of the proceedings, both of the Association of Medical Editors and of the American Association, it will be unnecssary to make more than a brief allusion to them in this letter. The anniversary meeting of the former was held on Monday, and although but few of those connected with the medical press were present, yet the meeting was an interesting and profitable one. The officers elected for the ensuing year were: B. F. Dawson, M.D., of New York, President; Henry Gibbons. jun., M.D., of San Francisco, Vice-President; and F. H. Davis, M.D., of Chicago, Secretary. The address of the retiring president, Dr. H. R. Storer, was delivered in the evening. and listened to by a good audience. The American Medical Association held its meetings in Pacific Hall. It commenced its session at 11 o'clock A.M. Tuesday, and did not finish its work until Friday evening, The President, Dr. Alfred Stillé, of Philadelphia, presided with ability, and all business was transacted in good order, and with good feeling. We think the number present was about three hundred, embracing representatives from as large a number of States as in most of the previous meetings. The number of reports from special committees, and scientific papers was less than usual; still the sections on climatology and epidemics, surgery and anatomy, practical medicine and obstetrics, and materia medica and chemistry, all had work to do, and the resulting volume of transactions will be sufficiently voluminous. Among the miscellaneous topics of most prominence that engaged the attention of the general meetings of the Association, were the mode of admitting members into the profession, the regulation of medical college fees, and the recognition of female practitioners and institutions for their education. On the first of these topics a report was made by the committee previously appointed to correspond with State medical societies, which was adopted by the Association, and the committee continued; also a paper from Dr. Moses, of St. Louis, which was referred to the committee on medical education. The policy of attempting to regulate the fees of medical colleges, and of admitting to representation in the Association the institutions exclusively for

the education of females, was discussed with more fulness, freedom, and courtesy than at any previous meeting. These topics have been persistently urged upon the attention of the Association by a few of its members, for the last three or four years. After a fair consideration, the Association decided by a very large majority to leave the subject of college fees with the colleges themselves, wisely considering it far more important to determine how much medical knowledge the student acquires than how much he pays for it.

The question of recognizing females and female institutions turned mostly on the broad ground of whether it is proper or best to directly encourage females to enter upon the study and practice of medicine. After a full discussion the whole subject was negatived by an indefinite postponement. The question was taken by yeas and nays, delegates only voting, and resulted in 80 to 25.

The social entertainments during the week were admirably arranged. Small companies were taken out to the Cliff for breakfast every morning, a most interesting place on the Pacific, affording a view of the ocean, the rocks, seals, etc., with a beautiful drive. On Friday afternoon there was a most pleasant excursion and entertainment by the hospitality of the profession and citizens of Oakland, a rich and beautiful town on the east side of the bay. The whole of Saturday was occupied with a most delightful excursion in a steamer around the bay, passing the Golden Gate, stopping at Mara Island long enough to visit the navy yard, the Marine Hospital, the beautiful flowers, &c., and returning to the city at six in the evening. It was most admirably conducted on behalf of the profession of San Francisco, and was greatly enjoyed by a large company of gentlemen and ladies. But I must close this rambling letter, with the conviction that the meeting in San Francisco has been as successful and pleasant in every respect as the most sanguine could have anticipated.

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The recent meeting of our State Medical Society, at Peoria, was the largest we have

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ever attended. The profession and citizens of Peoria received and entertained the Society in the most hospitable and liberal manner. A full account of the proceedings will be given in our next number.

IOWA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Iowa State Medical Society was held in Des Moines, Iowa, April 19th and 20th, 1871. The number in attendance was unusually large, and all the proceedings were characterized by harmony and the best of feelings. Several valuable papers were read, and verbal reports of special cases, with discussions thereon, contributed to the general interest and improvement. Dr. S. B. Thrall, of Ottumwa, occupied the chair as president pro tem., with Dr. Geo. P. Hanawalt, of Des Moines, as secretary.

The following persons were selected as officers for the ensuing year: President, Dr. A. G. Field, Des Moines; Vice-President, Dr. J. M. Robertson, Muscatine; Secretary, Dr. Geo. P. Hanawalt; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. J. F. Ely, Cedar Rapids.

Money Receipts from April 29th to May 22nd, 1871.—Drs. Peck and Moore, 3.00; Dr. J. B. Newman, 3.00; Dr. W. W. Walton, 6.00; Dr. L. T. Hewins, 3.00; Dr. J. W. Filkins, 3.00; Dr. R. D. Bradley, 3.00; Dr. J. P. Mathews, 3.00; Dr. W. S. Fox, 3.00; Dr. Spickler, 7.25; Dr. Reynolds, 2.75; Dr. C. J. Miller, 3.00; Dr. D. Scott, 5.00; Dr. J. Quirck, 3.00; Dr. J. M. Smith, 2.00; Dr. Daniel Lichty, 3.50; Dr. Wardner, 12.00; Dr. P. P. Gordon, 3.00; Dr. J. W. Barlow, 3.00; Dr. S. P. Breed, 3.00; Dr. W. H. Baxter, 6.00; Dr. T. D. Washburn, 3.00; Dr. Ge. W. Wright, 3.00; Dr. R. E. McVey, 3.00; Dr. J. F. Hamilton, 5.00; Dr. D. Thompson, 3.00; Dr. L. Ware, 3.00; Dr. Wm. Monroe, 10.00; Dr. Dexter, 3.00; Dr. N. W. Abbott, 6.00; Dr. J. M. Baird, 3.00; Dr. L. Tibbets, 3.00; Dr. J. Brewster, 3.00; Dr. G. A. Baunel, 9.00.

CARBOLIC ACID IN PRURITUS CUTANEUS.—Professor Binz recently called attention to the value of the internal use of carbolic acid in prurigo and pruritus. He gives it in the form of pills, made up with extract of licorice, containing at first one and a-half grains of the acid, but increasing the dose to fifteen grains per diem. In the latter quantities it sometimes produces gastric disturbances, but which quickly subside when the medicine is given up.—American Practitioner.

HICCOUGH CURED BY CHLORAL.—Dr. P. F. Whitehead has recently prescribed for a patient with hiccough, which had continued for thirty-six hours. Various remedies were used with but little good effect, save a temporary cessation by the use of morphine hypodermically. Thirty grains of chloral gave immediate and permanent relief.—Medical Record.

DECLINE OF VACCINATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.—Nearly all the British medical journals contain some allusion to the increase of small-pox, which is generally attributed to the decline of vaccination, in consequence of the senseless and fatal prejudice against protection brought about by the anti-vaccination agitators.—Medical Record.

TETANUS AND CHLORAL HYDRATE.—Dr. George Thompson reports, in the *Richmond and Louisville Medical Journal*, a case of supposed idiopathic tetanus cured by chloral. The dose was 30 grains, repeated several times a day. The cure was effected in four or five days.

DURATION OF LIFE.—Mr. Nelson, an English actuary, shows that a temperate person's chance of living is, at 20—44.2 years; at 30—36.5 years; at 40—28.8 years. An intemperate person's chance of living is, at 20—15.6 years; at 30—13.8 years; and at 40—11.6 years.

DEATHS FROM ALCOHOL IN CITIES.—Dr. Elisha Harris, of N.Y., states it as his belief, that the annual number of deaths from alcohol in cities is in the proportion of 100 to every 100,000 inhabitants. Of the deaths from disease of the brain, liver, and kidneys, in New York City, in 1869 (1369), twenty per cent., or 273 of these cases, were believed to be the immediate results of alcoholism.—Proceedings of American Association for Cure of Inebriates.

Insanity.—Dr. Willard Parker, of N.Y., states that eighty per cent. of the cases of acute insanity treated are restored to health and usefulness.

INTRA-UTERINE INJECTIONS are the subject of much discussion and diversity of sentiment in the profession at the present time. In New York, it is stated that a majority condemn them, thinking they have frequently caused death.—Pacific Medical Journal.

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WET BANDAGES IN FRACTURES. — Guersant (Medical News and Library) for all forms of infantile fracture, habitually wets all bandages at the moment of their application, with a resolvent liquid, such as lead-water or camphorated brandy diluted with water, provided the fracture is not complicated with wounds.—Medical Record.

THE ANTERIOR SPLINT.—The London Correspondent of the Baltimore Medical Journal writes that Smith's anterior splint has been quite extensively introduced in practice in the military hospitals in France.since the commencement of the late war by Drs. Tilghman and May, of Baltimore, who were connected with the Anglo-American Ambulance Corps, and have been in constant service since the battle of Sedan. It has been most favorably received, and these surgeons have furnished a number to the Prussian surgeons.

THE CARBOLIC ACID TREATMENT IN THE LONDON HOSPITALS. In these hospitals the carbolic acid treatment, more or less modified, is employed after surgical operations. Mr. Erichsen, of the University College Hospital, washes out the stumps with carbolized water, and applies a very simple dressing of lint wet with it. In a Chopart's operation recently at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Mr. Paget closed the stump after his operation, accurately, with dressings soaked in a solution of carbolic acid in oil, and said, if all did well, he should allow it to remain so for a week.—Correspondent Balt. Med. Journal.

IODOFORM OINTMENT.—In the Boston City Hospital, iodoform ointment in connection with iodide of potassium, is extensively and successfully used in the treatment of syphilitic ulcers and rupia. Dr. William Ingalls, attending surgeon, advocates this formula in two obstinate cases under his care:

AMERICAN DOCTORS.—According to the present census there are seventy-four thousand doctors in this country.

CASES OF POISONING FROM CHLORAL are reported in a great number of the medical journals, both in Europe and America. In most of the cases it has been used without medical advice.—

Pacific Medical Journal.

# MORTALITY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1871.

Accidents, burns, clothes   Diarrhoa	2 Liver, abscess of 1
taking fire 2 " chronic	- 2 " congestion of 1
" brain concussion 2 Diphtheria	- 7 " enlargement of 1
" chloroform surgi- Dropsy general	- 1 " and stomach, con-
cal operation _ 1 " of abdomen	
" crushed by bridge 1 " of chest	- 2 Lungs, congestion of 5
" city railroad cars 1 Drowned	
" drowned 3 Dysentery	- 3 Manslaughter 1
" fall 4 Embolia from cardia	c Mortification of leg 1
" fracture of skull 1 inflammation	
" poison 1 Enteritis	
" run over by team 2 Erysipelas	
" steam railroad cars 3 Fever congestive	
Buttocation Puci perat,	
Apoptery	- 1 " tubercular 2
Astuma I control	- 3 Old age 9
Atelectasis pulmontum 1	s 3 Ostitis of tibia 1
	- 1 Œdema pulmonum 1
Composition of Process	9 Pericarditis 1
Brain, compression of 1 Gastromalaxia	
CONSCIONATION OF THE PROPERTY	
Concussion and Cash o Checking	
meningitis 1 Hæmatemesis inflammation of 7 Hæmorrgica purpura	
" inflammation of 7 Hæmorrgica purpura Bronchitis 4 Heart disease	- I Priore
" capillary 5 " paralysis of	3 Scrofula 3
Cachexia malaria 2 " hypertrophy of	2 Small-pox 1 - 1 Spinal cord, disease of 1
Cancer of breast 1 " organic disease	of 1 Suicide by shooting 2
" of shoulder 1 " valvular disease	e of 7 " by drowning 1
" of stomach 1 Hepatitis	- 1 Syphilis hereditary - 1
" of uterus 3 Hydrocephalus	2 Tabes mesenterica 15
Cerebral spinal irritation 1 " acute	5 Teething 4
Childbirth 1 Injury of vertebra an	d " and complications 1
Cholera infantum 1 paralysis	
Consumption 48 Insanity	- 1
Convulsions 39 Inanition	12 Total421
Croup 9 Intestines, gangrene	of 1
" membraneous 2 Kidneys, Bright's di	s- Premature births 15
Cynanche trachealius_ 1 ease of	1 Still births 61
Cystitis chronic 1 Laryngismus stridul	as 1
Debility, general 3 Laryngitis	4 Total 76
ACTO	
AGES.	
Under 1 130 10 to 20	
1 to 2 44 20 to 30	49 80 to 90 2
2 to 3 18 30 to 40	- 39 90 to 100 0
3 to 4 17 40 to 50	
4 to 5 6 50 to 60	
5 to 10 23 60 to 70	_ 14  Total,421
Males,226   Females,	195   Total, 421
Single,298   Married	123   Total, 421
White, 409   Colored,	

#### COMPARISON.

Deaths in April, 1871, 421   De					
Deaths in Mar., 1871,	47	2   De	crease, _	 	51

#### NATIVITY.

Chicago, Foreign U. S., other parts	4 France 4 Germany 77 Holland 135 Ireland	6 New Brunswick 2 Norway 52 Poland 1 Switzerland 45 Scotland, 1 Sweden 0 Unknown	5 3 1 3 9

#### MORTALITY BY WARDS FOR THE MONTH.

		MOMINITI	DI WALL	DD FOR THE MONTH.
Wards.	Mortalit	y. Pop. in 1870.		Mortality.
1	6	6,531	1088	Accidents23
2	13	14,338	1103	Burlington Slip 1
3	20	16,805	840	County Hospital 13
4	15	12,178	812	Foundling Home 10
5	12	11,605	967	Home for Friendless 3
6	15	19,486	1299	Immigrants 2
7	11	13,849	1259	Illinois Central Slip 1
8	26	22,994	887	Marine Hospital 1
9	39	27,278	699	Mercy Hospital 2
10		13,750	573	Hospital Alexian Brothers 4
11	23	14,988	652	Manslaughter 1
12		13 976	1747	St. Joseph Orphan Asylum 7
13	5	8,943	1788	Suicide3
14	5 9	9.076	1008	_
15		20,382	474 .	Total 421
16		13,975	873	
17	30	17,118	571	
18	22	17,069	776	
19	6	8,738	1456	
20	7	13,628	1947	

Mean Thermometer for month, 523°; Rain, 2.950 inches; Deaths daily, 14.

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